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ABSTRACT

Materials for teaching a unit about the Underground Railroad (the system set up to assist fleeing, runaway slaves heading north) in Indiana are presented. Specifically, the Western Route that passed through Daviess County in Indiana is examined. The materials provide background on the Underground Railroad and the Western Route, plans for teaching the unit, a glossary, and maps, games, and other activities. The materials can be used with fourth and fifth grade students. (DB)

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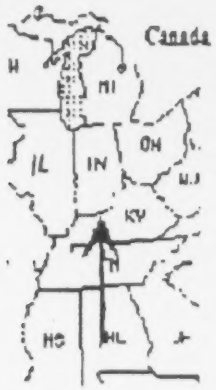
INDIANA UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FOLKLORE: WESTERN ROUTE AND DAVIESS COUNTY



By
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INDIANA UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FOLKLORE:

WESTERN ROUTE AND DAVIESS COUNTY

The "Underground Railroad" was the name for a system set up to assist fleeing runaway slaves heading north to Canadian safety. Transportation on the "railway" was on foot, by horseback, in a wagon, or in a boat. Traditionally, it was named when a Kentucky slave owner could find no trace of his runaway beyond the Ohio River. He reportedly said there must be a railroad underground in Indiana on which the slave escaped. In the period from 1816 to 1865, thousands of narrow escapes took place when black fugitives "rode this train".

A short review of why an Underground Railroad was necessary will help the reader understand the conditions at that time. Reactions of people to the black fugitives entering Indiana were quite diverse. The background given will help the reader to understand this diversity.

Attempts are made to trace the Western Routes used by the black fugitives from the Ohio River through Indiana. The material comes from tradition or folklore. Most of the records that were kept had to be destroyed in 1850 when aiding a fugitive became a serious offense. The Western Route went through Daviess County which has been singled out in this paper.

BACKGROUND

Slavery was introduced into the English colonies in 1619 in Virginia when a Dutch ship brought twenty Negroes

back from Africa. The captain sold them to white plantation owners. The children of slaves became slaves and more slaves were bought. By the end of the 1700's, there were more than one half million black slaves in the New World.[1]

The Northwest Territory opened up for settlement under the Ordinance of 1785 which provided for the orderly survey and sale of land. The Ordinance of 1787 provided for individual liberty and freedom. It supported schools, stated the mechanics of statehood, and outlawed slavery in Articles III, V, and VI.[2]

Article VI stated, "There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory..."[3]

Governor William H. Harrison and many settlers wanted to keep their slaves. "The census of 1810 counted 237 slaves and 393 free blacks in the territory."[4]

In 1815 Indiana Territory had 63, 897 people living there. Forty-three men met at Corydon, the second Indiana Territory capital, that summer to draw up the Indiana State Constitution of 1816. It was stated that Indiana would be a free state.[5]

By the 1840's many black fugitives were coming to Indiana. At the Constitutional Convention of 1850-51, blacks were prohibited from even settling in the state in Article XIII. One hundred fifty delegates voted. Only thirteen were native Hoosiers. Seventy-four were born in the South, fifty-seven were born in northern states, and six were born in foreign countries.[6]

Some objected to slavery because of moral and religious doubts, but did not want a potential increase in numbers of black residents. Others objected to slavery doing jobs white men could be hired for. A lot of folks simply regarded blacks as inferior and undesirable settlers for the new state.[7]

Blacks who came to Indiana as free men usually settled in black communities. They ran grist-mills, lumber camps, did blacksmith work, barbering, and farmed. Women often worked as domestics.

Democrats were mainly proslavery having come from the South. They continued to look down on the blacks as little better than any chattel owned. Republicans were more charitable. They did little to defend the blacks from their assailants. Their reluctance to be called "nigger-lovers" affected their actions but, more importantly, they had little confidence in the ability of the Negro. Indiana went into the Civil War to save the Union, not to free the slaves.[8]

The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 gave the owners more rights to reclaim their property anywhere in the United States. It was made solely for the benefit of the slaveowners. Reaction to it was great and many more people became abolitionists.

> The churches were deeply involved in the controversy over slavery and the related question of the status of the Negro in American Society, and Biblical authority was frequently invoked in the debate over these questions...Indianans were more tolerant of

> slavery and less aroused by the antislavery movement than were people in most northern states...It is probably more accurate to describe the dominant attitude in Indiana as neither proslavery nor antislavery but as anti-Negro.[9]

Although the black population was no more than one percent before the Civil War, severe black laws were written. One said no black could vote. Negroes were prohibited from giving testimony in court in which a white man was a party. Public schools were closed to them. Intermarriages were forbidden.[10]

People who were sympathetic to the Negro cause were called abolitionists. Quakers were the leading abolitionists in the eastern side part of Indiana. Other churches worked more in the central and western side of the state. Some Christian groups felt emancipating the slaves and shipping them back to Africa was the answer. The Indiana Colonization Society was founded in 1819 in Indianapolis. It was to keep blacks from settling in the state.

In 1838 a State Anti-Slavery Society was organized. Its purpose was to elevate the status of the Negro.[11]

> In aiding fugitive slaves, the abolitionist was making the most effective protest against the continuance of slavery; but he was also doing something more tangible; he was helping the oppressed, he was enjoying the most romantic and exciting amusement open to men who had high moral standards. He was taking risks, defying the laws, and making himself liable to punishment, and yet could glow with the healthful pleasure of duty done. The underground Railroad was simply a form of combined defiance of national laws, on the ground that those laws were unjust and oppressive.[12]

Violence against the slaves, the freed blacks, and against abolitionists only brought more sympathizers. By 1838 there were 1,350 societies with 350,000 members in the Anti-Slavery Society.[13]

Because of its geographic location to the south, Indiana became a prime Underground Railroad to the black. On the east, Levi Coffin was doubtless the leader. His first recollection of slaves was seeing them driven while chained together when he was seven, living in North Carolina. As a fifteen year old, he helped a kidnapped free man by getting his father to contact people from the north who could prove him free. Later he saw a slave, who had been captured, subjected to an iron band put on his neck. He was then chained to a buggy which was driven off at a fast trot. The poor Negro had to run full speed to keep up or be dragged by his neck.[14] Levi Coffin left North Carolina in 1823. He visited his brother-in-law near Terre Haute and taught school at Honey Creek while there. He returned to North Carolina, married Catherine (Katie) White on October 28, 1824, and taught a school of fifty pupils.[15]

In 1826 Levi Coffin bought property at Newport, Indiana, now Fountain City, and through his retail store business was able to help countless fugitives. Routes from Madison, Jeffersonville, and Cincinnati all seemed to lead to his house and then disappear. He worked twenty years in Indiana then in Ohio and never once got caught.[16]

Levi Coffin tells that a Kentuckian named him President of the Underground Railroad after he had secreted seventeen slaves away safely. No trace was found after they reached Levi Coffin's place so he said they must have gone on an Underground Railroad.[17]

Most of the workers engaged in the Underground Railroad were people who felt a moral and Christian obligation to obey God's command to "feed the hungry and clothe the naked". Those opposed called their actions "thievery".[18]

Many did not even know of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln in 1863. The black people were still in "bondage" until the Civil War was over in 1865.

Bounty hunters, deputized as marshalls, prowled the northern states constantly. The Underground Railroad gave the escapee a chance to reach freedom. Words from a descendent of a runaway describe it well.

> The Underground Railroad was no actual railroad of steel and steam. It was a network of paths through the woods and fields, river crossings, boats and ships, trains and wagons, all haunted by the specter of recapture. Its stations were the houses and churches of men and women (agents of the railroad) who refused to believe that human slavery and human decency could exist in the same land.
>
> The scholar Edwin Wolk II captured the heart of my ancestors' experience when he wrote that the Underground Railroad was filled with "tales of crated escapees, murdered agents, soft knocks on side doors, and a network as clandestine and complicated as anything dreamed up by James Bond".[19]

THE WESTERN ROUTE OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

The people acting as agents in the western part of the state were mainly from the Methodist, Baptist, or Presbyterian congregations who felt it their Christian and moral obligation to help. Stories of slaves fleeing to avoid separation, whipping, branding, mutilation, castration, and death won sympathizers.

Vanderburgh County

Stories conflict as to how many blacks went through Evansville. It was dangerous because of likelihood of being captured. However, tradition names a house on Carpenter Street as a shelter for fugitive slaves. It was built in 1849 by transportation entrepreneur Willard Carpenter. The recently restored house is now the home of Southwest Indiana Public Broadcasting.[20]

Another traditional place was the Washington Hotel built in 1855 at the corner of Southwest Third and Main Streets. Black barbers and waiters reportedly used the basement as a shelter for fugitives from the south.[21]

The first deed record of a black was a George Washington recorded December 26, 1822. Most blacks did not stay before 1865.[22]

> By 1860, Indiana's black population was only 11,428, less than 1 percent of the total population and a net increase of 166 persons in the preceding decade...Except for 449 blacks in Knox County, few were present in the southwestern part of the state.[23]

Most whites were simply indifferent. "Stealing a horse, wrote Frank Gilbert, was considered a more serious crime than stealing a slave.[24]

Posey County

The site of McFadin's Bluff, the vicinity of what is now Water Street and College Avenue in Mt. Vernon, was also the site of many landings of steamboats during the pre-Civil War day, and also following , when slaves would be making their way up Mill creek to Robin Hill, a large residence at West Ninth and Mill Streets and the Lower New Harmony Road. After three or four stops they would arrive in Terre Haute.[25]

Another place is noted in Posey County.

> Many fugitives crossed the river near the Henderson Ferry and entered Indiana via the southern tip of Union Township. Others crossed at Diamond Island near Posey County, and some fled thence to Union Township...After the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, slaves had to have written permission from their masters to cross the Ohio, and local and federal authorities made escaping from slavery more difficult.[26]

Kidnapping happened frequently. In 1816 people named Goddard went to Posey County on a flatboat to settle. The wife became ill and was deserted by her husband. A Negro found her on the flatboat and nursed her back to health. When well, she returned to her husband and soon gave birth to twins. The husband said they were birthmarked as one was mulatto and the other dark. In 1822 Acquilla Ford and Jack Lynn kidnapped them. A band of 27 armed men, led by Joe Cater, P. Calvert, and William Rogers, went to Diamond Island to rescue them. The citizens there were supportive of Ford and Lynn, so they failed. In 1824, Patrick Calvert told of the kidnapping in Arkansas. The people knew the

boys' whereabouts and Calvert was able to win court proceedings and took them home to their mother.[27]

Warrick

Warrick County was suitable to cross to from Kentucky because of Green River, which flows from Tennessee to the Ohio River, empties just two miles below Newburg. From here it was just a short distance to the Wabash-Erie Canal. When Sheriff Beroni S. Fuller was confronted by a few citizens in 1856 complaining that hundreds of fugitives were coming through Warrick County, he replied, "Let 'em!"[28]

Gibson County

> RUNAWAY SLAVES CAUGHT--Mr. Barrett's two slaves that left him on Saturday night last were caught yesterday by Sheriff Gavitt, near Princeton. They were concealed in the house of a white man by the name of Carithers who was at first not disposed to surrender them. But finding the Sheriff fully authorized to take them and at all disposed to "do anything else" he bid his sable guests an affectionate "good-bye" and made no forcible resistance. The slaves were said to be anxious to return to their master.--Runaways find it impossible to elude the vigilance of our Evansville officers, and if they want to make a good run of it they must take some other direction.[29]

A black settlement, founded by freed slaves, was established near Princeton call Lyles Station. It became a refuge for blacks escaping the South, previous to the Civil War. Joshua Lyles came from Tennessee after being liberated and given some money. Joshua, and his brother Sanford, accumulated 1,160 acres of land by 1859. Joshua returned to Tennessee after the Civil War to invite friends to come.[30]

An interview with Mrs. Loretta Freeman of R.R.1, Princeton, gave information about her family. Loretta's

grandfather, Uriah Hardiman told that his father was one of four boys boated across the Ohio River with their mother. The owner gave them freedom papers, money, and a white guide to purchase property around 1840. They landed east of Evansville past Tell City at Grandview, stayed awhile, then went to Princeton before the Civil War. Uriah Hardiman married a Greer whose father was Willis, son of Levi Greer. Levi Greer was a white man from Alabama who was granted permission to leave with his eight Negeo slaves. They came to Princeton in 1850. The slaves were Ann Greer with her children, Henry, Allen, Willis, and Harriet Caroline, a baby. On July 3, 1850 they were given their freedom. Harriet married Jonathan Lyles, son of Joshua, March 4, 1865.[31]

There were reportedly at least six stations in Princeton. David Stormont lived in a log cabin about three miles north. He is to have had a gun and a Bible that he carried to church and could use either freely. His wife is said to have kept a pot of boiling water handy for emergencies, including unwanted guests searching for fugitives. Another station was said to have been run by Jim Tom Cole, a free Negro, west of Princeton. He had beome prosperous enough to own a threshing machine. A third station allegedly was run by Andrew Carithers about five miles northeast, known now as the Walden farm.[32]

Dr. Virgil Clift of Princeton mentioned a station presumed to be in a house built in 1832 by a Judge Hall. A

Quaker family named Spore is credited with running it. A fifth station was reported to have been where the American Legion now stands. A last possible site was west of Patoka and run by David Hull.[33]

Other reports say Rev. Thomas B. McCormick of the Presbyterian Church piloted slaves out of the South. He later fled to Canada to avoid his own capture. Sarah Merrick of Princeton was not so lucky. She escorted a slave woman with her three children from Henderson, Kentucky, was caught, jailed, and fined five hundred dollars.[34]

A famous station at the northeast part of Gibson County was the Cockrum home in Oakland City. Col. William Cockrum wrote extensively of the work in which his father was involved. William was a colonel for the Union Army during the Civil War. Both men were staunch abolitionists. One story he related was of a black man named Stephenson who wanted to free his three sons. Successful, he left them with Cockrum while he raised money to get them to Africa. One evening while the young boys were helping with the barn work, two white men rode up. They had written descriptions of the boys claiming they were escapees from South Carolina. Mr. Cockrum excused himself then came back with his big bear gun "Old Vicksburg". He showed them the room where the boys slept with the warning that if they were disturbed, he would kill "fifteen worthless vagabonds" like them before they got away. He then cocked his gun saying, "I feel it coming on--

go quick!" He shot one over their heads. The boys stayed for over three years, then went with their father.[35]

As many as one hundred young to middle-aged men worked for the Underground Railroad reported Cockrum. Their occupations varied in order to give them opportunity to go South and mix and mingle with the colored people. J.T. Hanover, known in Oakland City as John Hanson, was reported as leader of the western route. Col. Cockrum had a diary of Hanover's showing use of keys to send messages, a code giving all workers a number, and routes named after trees. The most used crossings were at the Diamond Island, Webb's Ferry on the Wabash, the mouth of Little Pigeon Creek between Boonville and Lynnville in Warrick County, and by a point halfway between Owensboro, Kentucky and Rockport, Indiana. Friends of Anti-Slavery were kept at all points of river crossings working as fisherman, ferryman, peddlers, teachers, map makers, or other occupations.[36]

Pike County

Dr. John Wesley Posey ran the well known station in Petersburg where he hid slaves in his home or in a coalbank near by. Col. Cockrum tells of taking letters telling of incoming cargo to him. He stated others active there were John Stucky, Pink Adkins, and Hiram Knight.[37]

Because of his vigorous participation in aiding the fugitives, the Methodist Church in Petersburg later dedicated a memorial stained glass plaque to him which

reads: "In memory of Dr. John W. Posey, Friend to the Slave, Lover of the Union".[38]

Mr. Allen T. Kime of Petersburg, born in 1901, is the great grandson of Dr. Posey. His mother was Effie Posey, daughter of Richard Posey, the son of Dr. John W. Posey. In an interview, Mr. Kime reports that Dr. Posey had a double log, two story, cabin with a breezeway between rooms. Here the wagon could pull in and unload its cargo which would be taken to the basement until greater safety at the coalbank. They would lower food down the mine in a bucket to the fugitives. The cabin was located on White River about where the Power Plant is now. The mine was the first commercial mine in Pike County. Mr. and Mrs. Kime have the stained glass plaque hanging in a window of their home.[39]

Another named abolitionist in Petersburg did not let it be known that he helped the slaves because of his position. An interview with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Eversoll of Petersburg gave the following information. Mr. Goodlet Morgan married Emily Proffit who inherited land from her father, the Honorable George H. Proffit. They built the "Morgan House" from 1850-1853 when it was completed. Hon. Proffit was Ambassador to Brazil and quite well to do making his fortunate in the mercantile business. Mr. Morgan accumulated wealth of his own as a constructor of brick buildings. He shipped lumber down the Wabash-Erie Canal to be sawed into boards and made bricks from his own clay. Mr. Morgan kept several colored servants but hated slavery. It

is said he hid fugitives in a tunnel going out from his wine cellar which ended under a dry cistern. When Mr. and Mrs. Eversoll lived in the house from 1972 to 1985, they found the tunnel going to the old cistern some thirty feet away. Tradition has it that President Lincoln stayed in their guest room at least two times.[40]

Clay County

According to report there may have been a resting stop at Neal's Mill on Eel River in Clay County. Fugitives followed or used the Wabash-Erie Canal to go on to Terre Haute.[41]

Knox County

Several stations were held in Knox County according to report. One possible station was on the farm now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Enley of Wheatland. Mr. Enley related that the home where he grew up was build before the Civil War. Born in 1907, he remembers there was a trap door in the main room near the fireplace. His parents discovered a loose board and found it could be removed and a ladder going down into a small room lined with homemade bricks was underneath. The house was razed about 1950.[42]

Vigo County

Terre Haute is mentioned numerous times as a stopping place. It seems to have been considered a "safe" place far beyond the Ohio River. One station named was just east of Terre Haute, the Riley place. Research for this county is incomplete.

Montgomery County

John Speed is reported to have operated the Underground System through Montgomery County. He was a fervent abolitionist. His cabin was built in 1820 and is said to have served as a hiding place. He became Crawfordsville's second mayor.[43]

Runaways were supposedly brought from Bloomingdale, a Quaker community in Parke County, to Alamo then to Yountsville. At Alamo there was an Eliot farm which was reported to have sheltered slaves. Reputedly there was a depot north of Alamo. A rocking chair on the roof of the front porch told the slaves they were welcome. There was supposed to have been a hidden room in between the back and front sections of the house. The next stop was reportedly the Abjijah O'Neall place, now Clough place. The barn on the site was said to have a lower level used for hiding slaves. Mary O'Neall Greene told how her mother said the Quaker housewife was always ready for "unexpected guests". Ample food and clean clothing supplies were kept ready. Also, a Mr. Fisher Doherty lived on Jennison Street in a brick house in Crawfordsville that had a double cellar which was available to fugitives. He also used a loft over his blacksmith shop.[44]

Tippecanoe County

"Lafayette was on the Wabash and Erie Canal in the thirties and forties, and the canal was in full operation." This brought a large population of boatmen, unlawful

characters, and excited the local rough young men. Several stations for the fleeing runaway were to be found in spite of this. The homes of Dr. Deming and A.P. Linn were said to be used. Dr. Luther Jewett used his office to hide slaves. A farmer, John Robinson, used his hay wagon to transport fugitives. A Ball family kept concealed runaways. Most of the slaves taken out for longer stays, stayed at the Buddell Sleeper home. He was a Quaker and able to make connections for the fleeing slaves.[45]

The story is told of a mob coming to Dr. Deming's home to destroy it because he "had made himself obnoxious by his speeches". They were also out to destroy Lewis Falley's home because he had been harboring slaves. The news got out and J.M. Michael, who was then Sheriff, organized willing citizens into an armed band. He also called the Lafayette Blues to protect the abolitionists. Dr. Deming met the mob at his home and made the greatest speech of his life. At least the rioters gradually sneaked away. They then went to the Falley home. Mr. Falley was at New Orleans but the armed men were there to stop them. While the rioters were still there, a most violent thunderstorm came. This helped to stop the attack, but they then went to homes of black residents, ran them out, and burned three homes. A.P. Linn was also threatened. The frightened blacks fled to the home of L.B. Stockton where his colored cook gave them shelter for three days and nights. "Marson Johnson, the first

Rector of the Episcopal Church, offered them shelter in sheds behind his home.[46]

DAVIESS COUNTY

There were a few slave owners in Daviess County, then a part of Knox County, registered in 1805-1807. The 1810 Census showed 135 slaves in Knox County.[47]

It can be established that Eli Hawkins came from South Carolina in 1806 bringing with him slaves Jake and Amos. James C. Veale brought a slave, Sam. William Ballow brought four, Buck, Isaac, Ralph and Mary. John Coleman had a slave, Cornelous Simms. William Hawkins brought Peggy and children, David, Henry, and Judy. J. Forden kept "Dish" but he belonged to a Flint family.

After the death of Eli Hawkins, his widow, Catherine, married a Mr. Merrin who had difficulty with Isaac and Jake, Buck had been sold earlier. Isaac and Jake instigated proceedings to determine the legality of their being slaves in a free territory. Their attorney, Amory C. Kinney, was one of county's first lawyers. The case was tried before Associate Judges Philip Burton and Ephraim Thompson. The Court decided in favor of the blacks and there was no appeal. This decision ended slavery in Daviess County. A great deal of prejudice grew from this trial, against the Negroes as well as their attorney. No threats made were carried out.[48]

In 1820, Armory Kinney represented a twenty-four year old black girl who sought her freedom. The Honorable

Jonathan Doty was Judge of the first Circuit Court. The alledged owner of the girl was Hyacinth Lasselle of Vincennes and his attorney was Thomas H. Blake who proceeded Doty as Judge.

Polly, a woman of color, was not born until after the Treaty of Glenville ceded the Virginia Territory to the United States as the Northwest Territory which under the Ordinance of 1787 prohibited slavery. The court ruled that Polly was still a slave belonging to Lasselle.

Polly then had Attorney Kinney appeal the decision to the Indiana Supreme Court at Corydon. A Joseph Hofman, from Vincennes, posted an appeal bond of $200 and signed his mark "X". Isaac Blackford, head of Supreme Court, signed the order giving Polly her freedom. This case stirred up ill feelings in the county.[49]

In 1824 the first known kidnapping occurred in Daviess County. Sam, a colored man, was claimed to be owned by a Vincennes man named McClure. While most of Washington's people would be attending a camp meeting, McClure hired Richard Palmer to deliver Sam to the west bank of White River in Knox County. Palmer had a hard struggle getting Sam to go but finally tied him up and they started to St. Louis. Sam managed to get away. He "borrowed" one of their horses and in a few days came riding triumphantly back to town. He showed his joy of being free by swinging his hat and yelling about it. Palmer was caught, prosecuted, and fined. Word goes that he gave up kidnapping.[50]

Meanwhile an Underground Railroad was being formed in Daviess County. All runaways had to cross the Ohio to enter Indiana. One said crossing was near Evansville. There were free blacks there who helped them. Major Robinson's home was reportedly one station. Routes began in Vanderburgh, Warrick, Spencer, or Perry Counties then proceeded to Gibson or Pike counties, and on to Daviess on their way north. Reported rendezvous included Reuben Walter's home in Gibson, David Stormont's and John Carither's in Princeton, Mace Kirk at Wheeling, Dr. John W. Posey at Petersburg, and Peter Stephenson's home in southwest Daviess County. Each conductor knew nearby stations but intentionally did not learn stations beyond to claim innocence when questioned.[51]

> In Daviess County the most zealous were: Peter Stephenson, Friend Spears, Elijah Johnson, John Thompson, and Frederic Myers. There were no doubt others whose names were not revealed.[52]

The outstanding aboltionist in Daviess County was reported to be Peter Stephenson. He was born June 3, 1804 in New Jersey of German parentage. He lived in Daviess County from 1839 until 1881 when he died at 77 years old. His family had moved to Cincinnati in 1810. He visited Daviess County in 1825 where he met his bride-to-be, Jane Crabb, daughter of a prominent family. They returned to Ohio.[53]

In 1833 a mob of angry Southerners came to Washington and destroyed presses and workings of the "Herald and Philanthropist' published by William E. Berry and son. This

episode influenced Stephenson to become an abolitionist, but not until 1839 when he came to live in Daviess County did he become active. Not long after moving to Daviess County, Stephenson saw a slave from South Carolina who was captured in the Prairie Creek bottoms, north of Washington. The Negro had an iron collar on his neck with upright prongs extending nearly a foot above his neck. He was jailed, and his captures began the search for his master.

Stephenson decided to help the desperate black man. People assumed he was a runaway, but nobody could prove it, so Stephenson was able to get him released. He took the black man to a blacksmith shop where the irons were filed off, then Stephenson sent him on to freedom. The citizens of Washington could not believe he would openly defy the law and aid a fugitive in such a way.[54]

The Stephenson home, still standing, is the second house north of the Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church on Indiana Highway 57, about three miles south of Washington. It was built around 1840 and was built especially for the type of work carried on in the Underground Railroad. It has an enclosed stairway to the attic which was used as a hide-out for fugitives. On the south was a wall of rough boards opening to a low-ceilinged closet. The door was one of the boards and did not show the opening. The closet ran the entire length of the room. A daughter of Peter Stephenson recalled how she had been forbidden to go up to the attic.

She was curious so she slipped up while her father was away and found a negro hidden. She did not tell.[55]

The stations were from three to twenty miles or more apart. The slaves learned the various stations and passed it on. The slave catchers, or bounty hunters, also learned the stations by using spies and law enforcement officers. Stephenson's home was known as one of the most reliable stations. Codes and signals were used to let the slaves know where to go.

> A vetern of the Civil War, Alfred E. Johnson, who was a resident of Washington, Indiana, related some interesting stories about Stephenson. Mr. Johnson said:
>
> "For forty years I lived within a mile and a half of the home of 'Uncle Peter' as he was familiarly called. I well remember his calls at my father's house, in the 'wee small' hours of the night; and we knew something about the business to be transacted before daylight. 'Uncle Peter' was always provided with a carriage, fitted with curtains that would securely conceal what was on the inside. No move was made, save only on dark nights, and then the fugitive was only taken on short trips. There was a station in Washington, but I never knew by whom it was kept. I have always believed it was on the John Thompson farm, just south of the city. There was another important stopping place in Martin County, said to be near old Hindostan, a town now extinct."[56]

Secret passwords were used. After arriving, usually after dark, there would be a timid knock on the Stephenson home and the password "Pee-wee" spoken. Immediately the fugitive was hidden away in the house or barn. Sometimes they had traveled the entire fifty miles from Evansville or vicinity, and would be exhausted. If pursurers were not too close, they were taken on to the home of "Old Yaller Jake" Hawkins, a black who lived west of Washington near Oak Grove

Cemetery. It was about five miles from the Stephenson place. "Pee-wee" would be spoken and they would be taken in for nourishment and rest. Jake and his sons, Smith and Chainer, would later take them to Terre Haute. Sometimes they traveled by wagon but most often on a canal boat. North of Terre Haute was considered safe for the fugitives.[57]

In an interview with Jessie Swann in 1976, the reporter from the Valley Advance newspaper from Vincennes recorded her remembrances. Mrs. Swann was the granddaughter of Joseph Willy who was taken in by his Uncle Peter and Aunt Jane Stephenson. She grew up on stories told by her grandfather. She told he was fairly young when he was taken on trips with his uncle north by wagon. She related how the wagon carried human cargo on dark nights, either to Washington, or to the Ten Mile House, a tavern north of Washington. After the railroad was built, he took them by train to Terre Haute.

Mrs. Swann mentioned the big pine trees that stood south of the Stephenson home were used for hiding. The Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Church now stands there. Peter Stephenson was Presbyterian.

Two great granddaughters of Peter Stephenson, Dorthy Cross and Jenny Stephenson of Vincennes were also interviewed. They told how the entire family helped in the operation. When their great-grandfather hid slaves in the woods, it was up to their great-grandmother, Jane, to watch

for visitors. They had a special signal yell that meant it was safe to come eat. She always kept extra food on hand.

When slave catchers were too close, their great-grandfather would ride through the woods firing into the air. The slave hunters would ride toward the shots and Grandmother Jane would hide the slaves in the house. One of their sons, Stephen, married and lived in Glendale, about ten miles east of Stephenson's. He often handled overflow crowds. Miss Stephenson remembered playing in his attic as a child and seeing the "comfort boxes" around the wall where slaves were sometimes hidden.[58]

In Harrison Township there is a house where the Auto-Parts Yard is now located that was reportedly a station. Abraham Lincoln is said to have stayed there at one time. It is not clear whether that was Stephen's house. Another house built in 1835 by a Dr. Hale Clark is still standing and is occupied by Richard Hamby who has the original grant made in 1825 and signed by John Q. Adams. It was possibly a station, also. The James Meade place was how it was known from 1903 until after 1960.[59]

The Stephenson sisters' Grandfather Jacob told a newspaper reporter in 1902 of how his father had debated the slavery issue with prominent area men in schools around Daviess County. His purpose was to further the slavery cause. At least once this backfired. One debate was in a one-roomed Scudder School just south of the home of Harold White and across from the Jim Gillooly home in Veale

Township. Two debate topics were used: "Is Slavery Right According to the Bible?" and Resolved: The Indian Has Been Mistreated More Than the Negro". After a debate with John Scudder on Slavery, Peter Stephenson was declared the winner. The crowd, mainly pro-slavery, became angry and prepared to "Tar and feather" him. Stephenson just barely escaped.[60]

Another story about Peter Stephenson involves a dry cistern at the south side of the house. Present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Sipes, say the cistern now holds water but there is a tunnel under the house near it. The attic room is now a bedroom with a regular door leading to the closet area. The narrow enclosed stairway is still used.[61]

It's told that a Negro woman and her baby appeared one evening. She told them that her child was about to be sold away from her so she dared to escape. (Similar stories are found in Uncle Tom's Cabin.) Her master followed her to Stephenson's led by his human hounds. They rushed in, frightened, hungry, and exhausted. Uncle Peter knew he had no time to lose. He placed them is the cistern that was dry at the moment. The owner and his men searched the property thoroughly, determined that she had to be there but failed to find her. At one time they were standing directly on tne cistern. The Stephensons had two cisterns, one on either side of the house. The men assumed they were full of water as the lead pipe attached to the roof went into the cistern. Mrs. Swann related that her grandfather said Uncle Peter was

standing right by the cistern and they were praying the baby would not cry.[62]

The woman and child were taken to more comfortable quarters after the searchers left. They were well fed, properly clothed, and sent on their way after resting. Peter Stephenson is quoted, "If I ever uttered a fervent and sincere prayer in my life, it was that the baby in the cistern would not cry while those men were searching the premises; and my prayer was answered."[63]

Mrs. Thelma Bingham tells another story about a slave woman named Lizzie and her young child. They were owned by a plantation owner in Kentucky. Lissie's husband was on a different adjoining plantation. Lizzie learned that her master was going to sell her and her child. All upper southern slaves dreaded being sold to the deep south as well as being separated from families. She got word to her husband who stole a horse and holding his wife and child in his arms rode all night long north. They arrived at the Ohio River in early morning just before daybreak. He then jumped down and led the horse into the water. The husband swam the river holding on to the horse's mane while it swam. The wife and child rode safely on its back. They found the huckster wagon of William Brown. He took just the mother and child to Peter Stephenson's. Lizzie and her child stayed several days to rest up when it was discovered she was being pursued. They were taken to Stephen's house in Glendale. That night they were shipped out in the hold of a

canal boat to Terre Haute. She eventually reached Canada where her husband was later able to join them.[64]

Most conductors worked for the cause of human lives without thought of pay. An exception was William Brown. He would drive his huckster or peddler wagon from Henderson, Kentucky up through Indiana as far as Daviess County. He had secret panels behind which he could hide "cargo". No one suspected but what he was a compassionate abolitionist. It was later discovered that he was simply in business for money. He made slaves pay him $100 per person before he took them. Probably, Lizzie did not have enough money for her husband. Brown would manage to reach Petersburg or Washington by nightfall after traveling all day or more. Stephenson's sons, Stephen and Jacob, helped him unload his cargo then he would go about selling his wares. Returning to Evansville, he would cross the ferry to Henderson.

> On one of his trips he was caught near Evansville and taken back into Kentucky because he had several runaway slaves in his wagon at the time. Brown was put on trial, convicted, and sentenced to prison for two years. His wife and child lived with Judge Hawley at Princeton, Indiana, until his term was up. Some money for Brown's trial and later his early release from prison was raised in Daviess County. It was later that his charge of $100 a piece was discovered.[65]

Even though Brown was working for personal gain and caused great hardship on many escaping slaves, he did help many to come the fifty miles or so much more quickly.

It is told that in the late 1840's, William Brown brought a large consignment of "cargo" to the Stephenson home on a dark stormy night. Shortly after the arrival,

riders came warning them that the huckster wagon was being pursued. It was too stormy and too near morning to try to go to Terre Haute. "Yaller Jake" was under suspicion, so Stephen decided to take them to the home of John Thompson just three miles north. It was almost daylight by then. He put the black people in the back of his wagon, threw gunny sacks over them, and started out as if going to the mill at Maysville. Along the road he met several persons who looked at him intently. He knew they were looking for slaves. He never let on but kept going until he reached the Thompson place. The password "Pee-wee" was given and the door opened to them. Here they would be safe because John Thompson was considered pro-slavery and was not under suspicion.

Some days later the Sheriff and a search party came to Peter Stephenson's home to find the fugitives. A complete search revealed nothing since the "cargo" had been disposed of safely. Sometime during the search, Jacob told them they had a sink hole to put fugitives in. The officers spent almost a day looking for the alleged sinkhole.[66]

> Marshal Ward and Sheriff Gavitt are bestowing all the attention in their power to the officers and passengers by the underground route, especially on the back track. Any kidnapper or notion pedlar wanting their services will be sure to be "done Brown".

Another story tells that a wagonload of fugitives, three men and one women, was brought to Peter Stephenson's and he had no room for them as he already had runaways there. He loaded them up and took them to the John Scudder farm just south of the Scudder School and hid them in the

heavily wooded ravine. He provided covers and food for three weeks until they could be safely moved on north.[68]

It seems 'Uncle Peter' was a hard worker however he was involved. He was a cooper by trade and doubtless did some farming. He was extremely bold as was shown by his debates and willingness to risk everything for the escaping slaves. At one time he is said to have had two blacks hiding in his cooper shop under the floor when two law officers searched all likely places. They stood right over them without knowing.[69]

Donofio again quoted Alfred E. Johnson telling of Stephenson in the following:

> After the Civil War, when there was no longer need for secrecy, 'Uncle Peter' in a public address, related what he had done for the downtrodden race, whose members were valued as we value horses and cattle on the farm.
>
> Peter Stephenson was a very conscientious man, a loved neighbor and a Christian...He outlived all his coworkers of the "Underground Railroad". He lived to see his cherished desire accomplished--the freedom of the slave. He was of the John Brown type in character, but more considerate in conduct than was John Brown.[70]

How much underground work was carried on before Peter Stephenson and his abolition friends in Daviess County is not known. Many names may never be known. A black settlement called Cherry Grove existed on the Knox County side of White River. It is said to have been a good hideout along the river bottoms. The leaders were supposedly Wiley Hughes and a man named Embree.

One of the possible places used in Washington was known as the Berry place which stood where "Big Lots" Store is

presently. Mr. David Horton reported that his parents always said the Berry house was involved. It stood back a lane from the road and had been built before or around 1840. The Horton house was built in 1843 just across the road south. He told it had an east porch which had a false bottom gotten to from the basement of the house. When the house was razed for the building of the Shopping Plaza, Mr. Horton went to the site and as the dirt as pulled away found about a four foot space under the cistern. He believes Elishah Hyatt built the house.[71]

Back of the Horton house is another house that is said to have been a possible Underground station. It was known as the Wilson house and is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Bentley Rider.

After leaving Peter Stephenson's or other Washington stations, fugitives were usually sent up the Wabash and Erie Canal or taken directly to Terre Haute. Vincennes had stations but there is no record of fugitives going from Washington to there. Folks coming from Petersburg seemed to have gone further north, perhaps to Ten Mile House, Daviess County.

It is reported that a man named John Little and one named Steine were agents from Princeton who conducted slaves from there to Stephenson's. Little is to have said that he trusted no one else for such as important job.

Seth Cruse, a business man, and James Delaney, a colored barber, from the Washington area are said to have assisted runaways without it becoming public knowledge.

The Ten Mile House mentioned earlier was a tavern ten miles north of Washington. The proprietor, Perry McGaughey, was the typical, old fashioned, country tavern keeper but he was sympathetic to runaway slaves. Because of the position in the community, he was never suspected of assisting the fugitives.[72]

The number of fugitives decreased after the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863. Some came until the Civil War was over in 1865 because they didn't know they were free. The majority of Daviess County people were not sympathetic to the blacks. Some worked actively against the Underground Railroad. Such was the case of William Turner and James McConnell. Others included Turnkey Andrew Martin, Jacob Wykoff and Frank Wilhoitte. Martin was very suspicious of the Stephenson farm but never once succeeded in catching him with runaways.[73]

Another kidnapping incident is told which may have been one of many. A man named George Dunlap arrived in Washington in the 1840's. Many suspected he could be a runaway but he was very likeable and made friends easily so nothing was done about it.

James McConnell, an attorney, decided to prove Dunlap was a slave so began his investigation. He won Dunlap's confidence and they frequently went "bathing" together,

whether in creeks or White River is not known. Finally, he invited him to his office to bathe in a tub. While he was stripped, McConnell took note of all distinguishing marks on his body. He found Dunlap had lash marks, a birthmark on his neck, and a brand on his right hip. McConnell had him arrested and put in jail.

Shortly after Dunlap's arrest, it just happened that two men from Kentucky came with papers describing the black man perfectly. Judge Riebard Clements had him stripped in order to examine the marks and because they matched, released him to the Kentucky men. They planned to leave the next morning.

Somehow Dunlap had the opportunity to call in Colonel John VanTrees, Sr. and Elisha Hyatt, Sr. that same night. He admitted he was a runaway from Greenville, Mississippi, not from Kentucky. Mr. VanTrees and Mr. Hyatt immediately began to find a way to help. They were able to trace down Dunlap's rightful owner who proved Dunlap was his property. Meanwhile, the two Kentuckians had taken Dunlap to Louisville, Kentucky and sold him. He was recovered and taken to Mississippi where he was later given his freedom. Dunlap returned to Washington but later moved to Vincennes to live.[74]

Another kidnapping from Washington is told by Colonel Cockrum. He tells that bounty hunters were numerous and didn't care if a black was free or not. It seems two free blacks from northern Kentucky, across from Rockport,

Indiana, had been working on the Wabash and Erie Canal toward Terre Haute. They wanted to visit home so made their way as far as Washington. There a very friendly man invited them to ride with him in his wagon as he was going the same way. They accepted and met him at the appointed place. Crossing on the ferry, they went on to Petersburg to spend the night. The wagon owner had a friend who joined him and he picked up two more in Petersburg. John Stucky, from Petersburg, saw them and became suspicious. He hunted up Dr. John W. Posey to tell him. Preparations were being made to depart so Dr. Posey rounded up his neighbor and hired hand to go with him to follow the suspects. By this time they knew they were correct for the kidnappers had the black men tied up. Past Winslow, they met a Rev. Eldridge Hopkins who joined them. The group then secretly passed the suspected wagon and found a Justice of Peace in Warrick County to write an injunction to stop the kidnappers.

The wagon was stopped and the men taken to court. There the kidnappers produced a handbill that described the blacks as runaway slaves and the old Justice released them back to the kidnappers.

Dr. Posey was not one to give up. His group followed the wagon until they came to a wooded area where they surprised the kidnappers. They threatened them with their lives until one man began to weaken. Rev. Hopkins took him aside promising him his life for the truth. He told how the handbill had been printed in Washington just the day before

and they were kidnappers. Each helper was to get $100 when the alleged slaves were sold. One by one they tied the kidnappers to trees and had the blacks give them 25 lashes each before sending them off in different directions. Dr. Posey then gave the Negroes the wagon and the arms left behind.

About ten days later Dr. Posey sent a man to Washington to learn what had happened. The kidnappers had returned telling of how they had been beaten and robbed of everything they had. However, they were not found in the kidnapping business again.

Rev. Hopkins stayed at the home of Col. Cockrum's father after being in an accident at the first steam mill in Oakland City. He then related the proceeding story to the Cockrums.[75]

In conclusion, research on a subject like the Underground Railroad reveals little prime evidence as no records were or could be kept. Circumstantial evidence plus folklore of the various stations make an intriguing story of Indiana History that should not be forgotten.

It seems to be true that most southern Indiana people were either pro-slavery, anti-black, or just plainly indifferent. However, there were those of the Underground Railroad who believed in human dignity, regardless of color, and believed sometimes man's law is wrong. They were willing to risk everything they had, including their lives, to help the unfortunate black people who had been subjected

to slavery through no fault of their own. The depth of desperation to force a person to flee, and the courage it took to brave the wilderness of Indiana full of wild animals and human wolves, can only be imagined. The injustice of what these people suffered will always be a "black eye" on the history of our nation. However, many American citizens, in Indiana as well as elsewhere, did their part to rectify this injustice.

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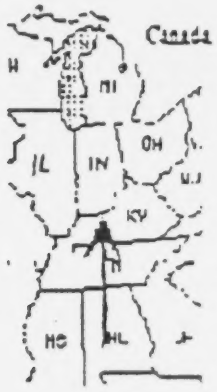
INDIANA UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FOLKLORE:

WESTERN ROUTE AND DAVIESS COUNTY



By
Lois G. Shelton

LESSON PLANS

Historic Southern Indiana Project Class
Funded by N.E.H.
Dr. Darrel Bigham
January 25, 1991

INTRODUCTION

The goals and purposes of this lesson on the Underground Railroad Folklore, are to get students to understand what it was, recognize the feelings of slaves, owners, and abolitionists, and the general feeling toward slavery. It should help them understand why the passage was undertaken and the dangers it entailed, as well as the political upheaval leading to the Cival War.

Students will learn that the Underground Railroad started way before railroads were actually used so Underground Road would have been more accurate. They will learn of the conditions slaves lived under, some good and some very poor. No matter how they were treated, they were still not free.

As children study this unit, they will learn how Indiana was settled by many folks who came from the "South", or slave states. Some brought their slaves with them making them indentured servants on a 99 year contract. Others came because they despised slavery and wanted to get away from it. Some were too poor to own slaves and others were quite indifferent to the issue of slavery.

Students will see how and why fugitives came to Indiana for freedom. They will learn how the laws of the land affected both the whites and the blacks as they became more in favor of the slave owners. Blacks were not safe in Indiana anymore after the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. They had to go to Canada to be safe.

Children usually enjoy stories and learn from them. Stories are included about escapes made and the stationmaster's help. The Ohio River was the dividing line of north and south.

Heroes willing to risk their lives for others will be presented as well as people wanting to make fast money. More stories are told

of Daviess County but stories from any county could be substituted.

This unit should inspire creative writing as children write an imaginary journal of a trip north as a slave. They can also use material to write plays or skits.

By studying this unit children grow in appreciation of black history and contributions that blacks have made. It will broaden their outlook on Civil Rights and the struggle to make all people equal whether black or white, men or women.

The unit will help students understand about the Civil War caused by the extremes in feelings of the people. They will see that people of the North were also to blame as they wanted the shipments of cotton to come faster. It all came down to people wanting more and more wealth and trying to justify it in any way.

Lesson Plans for Unit

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FOLKLORE, WESTERN ROUTE

Objectives:

1. Children of fourth and fifth grade levels learn what the Underground Railroad was and how it came about.
2. Students learn of the plight of the black slave in Indiana and in the South.
3. Children learn why slavery was mainly in the South, but little in the North.
4. Students gain knowledge of why Indiana settlers felt as they did about slavery, either for or against or indifferent.
5. They become familiar with many Indiana towns as they study routes.
6. Children learn why Indiana was a logical way for fugitives to flee to Canada. All of the Midwest was involved.

Opening of Unit:

1. Map study. Have children learn what states are free and which are slave.
2. Help children to understand what it meant to be a slave with absolutely no rights of their own.
3. Have children become familiar with Underground Railroad routes to Canada through Indiana with map study.
4. Tell children stories told in folklore or read stories from paper on this unit.
5. Read aloud a book such as, Harriet Tubman, Freedom Train by Dorothy Sterling.

Developing of Unit:

1. Divide children into five groups for cooperative learning.
2. Assign each group a role to investigate, talk over, and prepare a report.
3. Choose children to be: Plantation owners, Slaves, Indiana Settlers, pro and con, Abolitionists, and Bounty Hunters.
4. Promote reading of books by children on slavery and black history and require book reports.
5. Do appropriate worksheets.
6. Present games on Underground Railroad to familiarize children with western route, people, and perils on way.
7. Show video, "The Underground Railroad in Indiana" by Mary Lou Snyder from Kokomo and Lois Shelton from Washington.
8. Make time-line chart or other visual aide to show changes in transportation from 1816 to 1865.

Conclusion:

1. Have a report day in which children participate by sharing in one of the following ways:
   a. Book report given orally.
   b. Role playing by children to illustrate a story or book.
   c. Skit written by children on a story or book.
   d. Journals read aloud of imaginary trip as a slave.
   e. Homemade projects such as a double floor wagon or specially made cabin with secret panels.

Evaluation:

1. Grade worksheets for score.
2. Have children write a page on what they have learned and what they liked about the unit.
3. Discuss how much they have learned and how feelings may have changed concerning:
   a. Slavery
   b. Slave owners
   c. Abolitionists
   d. Bounty hunters
   e. Indiana settlers

Name_____

Indiana History
Unit: Underground Railroad Folklore
Slavery in United States

Read the story and do activities listed.

Slavery began in the English colonies in 1619 in Virginia when a Dutch ship brought twenty Negroes back from Africa. They were sold to plantation owners in the South. Slavery proved very profitable for the ship captains as well as the large plantation owners. The invention of the cotton gin in 1793 made it even more profitable to have slavery for the southern folks.

In early history, a conquering army took the other army as slaves. Many of the African tribes still followed this custom. They thought nothing of selling their slaves to the white captains. Later as greed took over, the chiefs might kidnap other tribes to sell. Ship captains often kidnapped free black people to avoid the cost of trading. No black person was safe even in Africa.

Ship captains would kidnap blacks then put them in cages or pits until they had gathered 300-350 persons for a load. On the ship, they were put in the lower decks built so closely that the prisoners could not even stand. Once a day, or every two days, they were taken up on deck and the lower deck scrubbed out with vinegar. Many became ill and died before even reaching America.

In America the slaves were sold at auctions after being washed, polished, fed, and given a little clothing. The new owners gave them new names and began training them to do their work. They had to learn English and forget their African tongue. For the most part, they were not allowed to learn to read or write. Any disobedience brought severe punishment. They quickly learned to obey.

Proud young blacks tried to run away. Most of the time they

were caught, returned and made an example of before the other slaves. Always, they were beaten, sometimes to death. As times became worse, iron collars with rods extending over their heads, sometimes with bells to be heard, were used. Balls and chains were fastened to their ankles. Sometimes the owner went so far as to cut off toes or pull out toenails to make it too painful to run away.

Plantation owners excused themselves by saying the slaves were their property, so they could treat them as they wished. They also said they had the mentality of children so had to be taken care of and told what to do.

People of the north soon found the cold winter months were not profitable in keeping slaves. They did enjoy the money made from the cotton products they manufactured so many wanted slavery to continue. Many thought slavery was a "necessary evil".

Activities:

1. Find Africa on the world map in your Indiana History book, then label your map. Label all of the continents and the oceans.
2. Draw a line from Africa to America the way a slave boat might have come. Put an x on where you lived in Africa and an x on where you were taken to in America.
3. Choose a book about slavery or black history and read it to help you understand what it was like. Write a book report.
4. Begin a journal of yourself as a slave. If your birth place was in Africa, begin there. If you want to be born in America, begin your journal on a plantation being born to slave parents. Tell what your life might have been like.

Earth

Name _____

Map taken from Silver Burdett Indiana History Workbook

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD GLOSSARY

Agent - One who ran a station and helped arrange travel to safety.

Ager - A kind of malaria carried by insects.

Bounty Hunters - Men who went about trying to recover slaves for the reward money involved.

Buy stock - To contribute money for moving of fugitives.

Cholera - A disease which was often fatal, sometimes wiping out an entire town.

Comfort boxes - Big boxes where extra quilts and comforters were kept.

Conductors - Those who personally assisted the slaves to the next place of safety.

Cooper - Maker of wooden barrels.

Copperhead - Person who owned slaves in Kentucky or other Southern state, yet lived in Indiana working against abolition.

Free state - State that would not allow slavery.

Fugitive - One who escapes from place of confinement to flee to another area in opposition of the legal law.

Grapevine telegraph - secret mode of communication in use of passwords, figurative phrases, special signals, whispered connection, local in usage.

Hoosier - Person born in Indiana, living in Indiana

Huckster wagon - wagon with supplies for the pioneers which could be bought from the wagon. Traveled from home to home.

Indentured servants - a contract to work off debt for given number of years up to 99.

Kidnappers - People who would kidnap or steal any black they could to sell later for a profit.

Messages - Negro spirituals often sang as a coded message to tell slaves time and plans for escaping.

Glossry II

Negroes - Black people

Peddler wagon - same as huckster wagon

People of color - black people

President of UGRR - Levi Coffin, Newburg (Fountain City) Indiana.

Promised land - Canada where the slaves could not be re-captured because it was out of the United States.

Quakers - Religious group who did not believe in slavery and took it upon themselves to help all who ceme to them.

Runaway slave - A slave that leaves without permission from his owner to live his own free life.

Slave - Person owned by another with no rights of their own.

Spy - Person who gets secret information without being found out.

Station - Temporary place of safety for slaves to hide, get food, clothing, and rest before next leg of journey.

Stockholders - Anyone to aid the slaves by giving them food, clothing or money.

Surface lines - Open travel on public transportation.

Thee, thou - Quaker way of saying you.

Underground railroad - A secret organization in which people, white and black aided slaves to leave slavery and escape to the north to freedom.

Wolf in sheep's clothing - Spy pretending to be friend.

Wolves - Slavecatchers sent by owners to capture escaped slaves, who often took freed men and sell as slaves.

Indiana History
Unit: Underground Railroad
Vocabulary

Match the following lists of words with their definitions. Use the Underground Railroad Glossary to help you.

Group 1

____1. indentured servant
____2. agent
____3. wolves
____4. fugitive
____5. Negroes
____6. Station
____7. Free state
____8. Kidnappers

a. Person being pursued by officers of law
b. A place where slaves had safety for a short period of time
c. A person who signed a contract to work off a debt
d. Black people
e. One who ran a station for runaways
f. People who steal other people for making money
g. Bounty hunters who were out to catch slaves to make money
h. A place where slavery was prohibited

Group 2

____1. Ager
____2. Copperhead
____3. Slave
____4. Quakers
____5. Huckster wagon
____6. Coded messages
____7. Promised Land
____8. President of Underground Railroad

a. A religous group who believed in peace and helping others
b. A disease that runaways sometimes got when hiding out
c. Canada
d. A person living in a free state but owning slaves in a slave state
e. Levi Coffin
f. A person owned like cattle or horses, with no rights of his own
g. Songs sung when someone was planning to lead slaves to freedom
h. A boxed in wagon which could hold items settlers needed

Indiana History
Unit: Underground Railroad
Slavery in Indiana

Name_____

Read the story then do the activities.

The Northwest Territory opened up for settlement in 1785. The Ordinance of 1787 provided for individual liberty and freedom. However, William Henry Harrison, governor of Northwest Territory, brought his slaves with him when he moved into his mansion in the Territorial capital of Vincennes, Knox County.

The census of 1810 listed 237 slaves and293 free blacks living in the Territory. Many of the slaves had been made indentured servants with contracts for 99 years. Some were given their freedom.

In 1815 Indiana Territory applied for statehood. Forty-three men met at Corydon, the new capital. The Constitution of 1816 stated that Indiana would be a free state.

By the 1840's, many black fugitives were coming to Indiana. Some because they were about to be sold. Some came to get away from cruel masters and others just wanted to be free. All dreaded being sold to the deep south cotton fields.

Some white settlers in Indiana did not mind the blacks coming and tried to help them settle land. Many white settlers did not want the blacks coming because they thought they were inferior. Some settlers thought they would take jobs that white people should have. Some people were simply indifferent and did not care.

The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 gave slave owners the right to collect their property anywhere in the United States. It was written mainly by southern people for the benefit of the slave owners. All law enforcing men were obliged to obey the law. Many people became abolitionists because of the cruelty of the law.

Bounty Hunters were everywhere to take away as many blacks as possible. Since they were well rewarded for bringing in blacks, they did not care whether they were free or not as long as they were black. Money became more and more important as greed prevailed.

Activities:

1. Color the map of the United States as follows:
   a. Free states green. Stayed with Union.
   b. Slaves states brown. Withdrew from the Union.
   c. Undecided or territories orange. Use your Indiana History book to help you find which are which.
2. How many free states were there? _____
3. How many slave states were there? _____
4. How many were undecided? _____

Answer the following questions by placing a capital printed T for true and a printed F for false.

____1. Indiana Territory was listed as a free territory.

____2. No one owned any slaves in the 1810 census in Indiana Territory.

____3. Slaves were made indentured servants or bondsmen with a contract for 99 years.

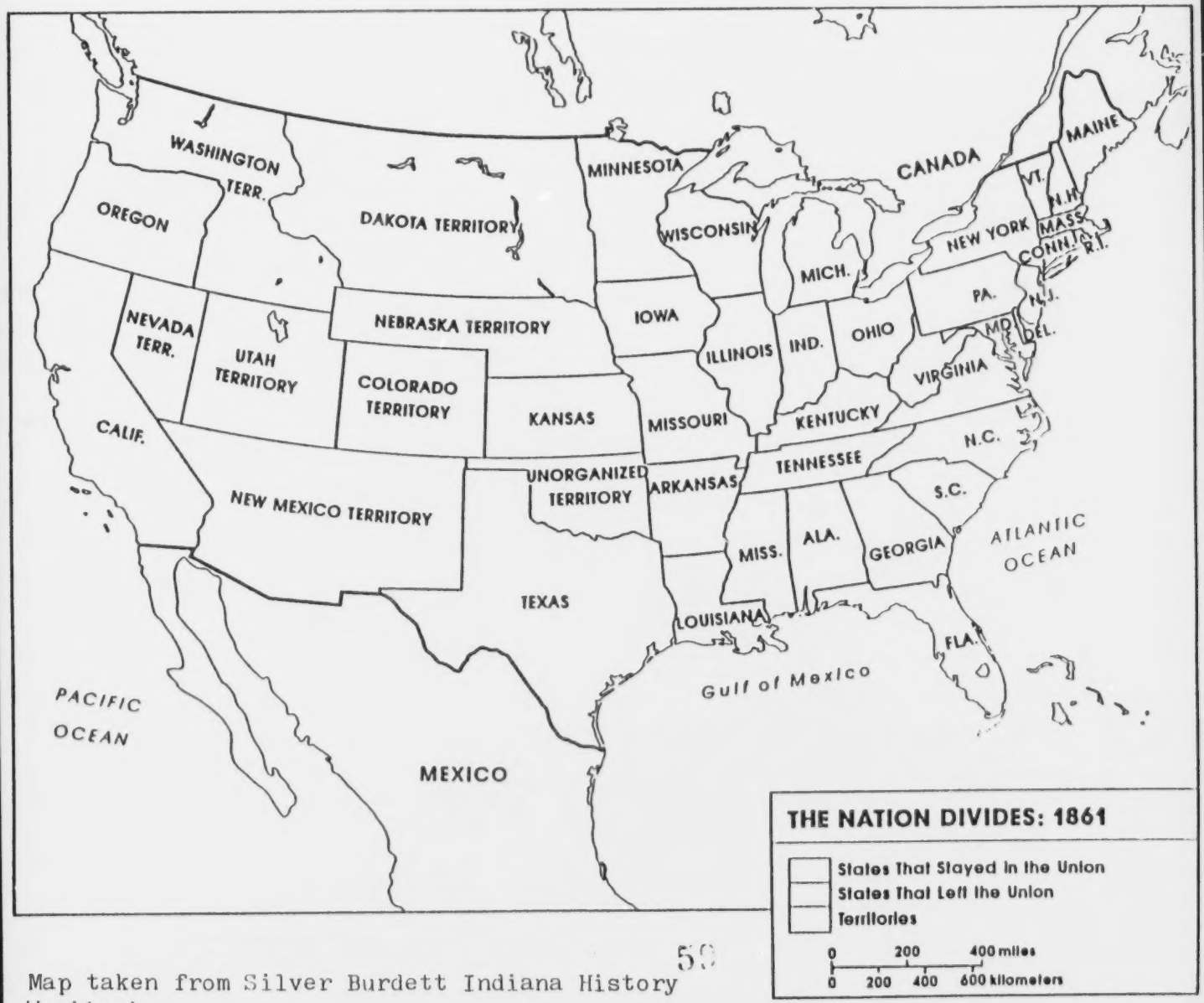
____4. The State Constitution of 1816 said Indiana was a free state.

____5. By looking at the map, Ohio would have become a state before Indiana.

____6. The Fugitive Slave Law was made to benefit the slaves.

..Follow directions on page 2.

Name _____



Map taken from Silver Burdett Indiana History Workbook

Indiana History
Unit: Underground Railroad
Harriet Tubman

Name_____

One person <u>can</u> do something!

Harriet Tubman decided she would help her people escape from slavery.

When she was a young girl, she was hit in the head by an angry slave owner and left for dead. She had refused to stop a runaway slave. Her mother nursed her back to health, but she had blacking out spells the rest of her life.

She was determined to help her people get away from such cruelty. Following the north star and the moss on trees, she made it to safety. She became a "Moses" to her people leading them out of bondage. In time she was able to even take her parents away. Nineteen times she returned taking at least 300 slaves in all away from slavery.

During the Civil War, she helped the black military units by being a nurse. Afterward, she helped people find work and start over in her new home.

Answer the following questions by putting them in 1-2-3 order.

____a. She ran away from slavery at twenty. She followed the north star and the way the moss grew on trees.

____b. Harriet Tubman was born a slave in Maryland in the 1820's.

____c. During the Civil War she helped the Union by being a Scout and nursing the black units.

____d. Before the Civil War, she returned nineteen times to bring people out of bondage.

____e. As a child she hated slavery, and once she hid in a pig sty for give days for which she was punished severely.

____f. She lived until 1913, 90 years, in spite of her many hardships.

Indiana History
Unit: Underground Railroad
Children's books

Read one or more of the following books, then do one or more of the following:

1. Give written book report.
2. Do role playing of one of the characters and tell of an interesting incident in the book.
3. Write a short play, then involve classmates in acting out a story. (Must be teacher approved)
4. Make puppets of some of the characters and put on a puppet show depicting one of the stories.

List of books to choose from:

Biographies

Colver, Anne, Abraham Lincoln, Scholastic Book Services, N.Y., 1960, 64 pages

Davidson, Margaret, Frederick Douglas Fights for Freedom, Scholastic Book Services, N.Y., 1960, 64 pages

Ferris, Jeri, A Pocketful of Goobers, a Story About George Washington Carver, Corolrhoda Books, Inc., 241 First Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minn., 55401

Ferris, Jeri, Go Free or Die, A Story About Harriet Tubman, Corolrhoda Books, Inc.

Ferris, Jerri, Sojourner Trugh, Walking the Road to Freedom, Carolrhoroda Books, Inc., 1988, 64 pages

Grant, Matthew G., Harriet Tubman, Black Liberator, Published by Creative Education, Mankato, Minnesota, 56001.

Hamilton, Virginia, Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave, Scholastic Inc., N.Y., 1988, 186 pages.

Hildreth, Richard, Memoirs of a Fugitive

Ortiz, Victoria, Sojourner Truth, A Self-Made Woman, J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, N.Y., 1974, 150 pages

Peterson, Helen Stone, Soujourner Truth; Fearless Crusader,

Sterling, Dorothy, Harriet Tubman, Freedom Train, Paperback

Yates, Elizabeth, Amos Fortune, Free Man, E.P. Dulton & Co., N.Y. 1950, 181 pages.

Fiction:

Armstrong, William H., Sounder, Hays and Row Publishers, N.Y., 1969, 116 pages.

Buckmaster, Henrietta, Flight to Freedom, Thomas Y. Crowell Co., N.Y., 1958, 208 pages

Clark, Margaret Goff, Freedom Crossing, Scholastic Book Services, N.Y., 1980, 164 pages

Green, Bette, Philip Hall Likes Me, I Recken Maybe, Dell Publishing Co., 1974, 135 pages.

Greenfield, Eloise, Talk About a Family, Scholastic Books, N.Y., 1978, 61 pages.

Hamilton, Virginia, Zeely, Scholastic Book Services, N.Y., 1967, 144 pages.

Levine, I.E., The Many Faces of Slavery, Julian Messner, N.Y., 1975, 184 pages.

Mathis, Sharon Bell, The Hundred Penny Book, Scholastic, Inc., N.Y. 1975, 47 pages

O'Dell, Scott, My Name Is Not Angelica, Houghton-Mifflin Co., Boston, 1989, 130 pages.

Sterne, Emma Gelders, The Slave Ship

Stowe, Harriet Beecher, Uncle Tom's Cabin (children's edition)

Taylor, Mildred D., Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, Bantam Books, Inc., 1978, 210 pages

Winter, Jeanette, Follow the Drinking Gourd, Alfred A. Knopf, N.Y., 1988, 42 pages.

Indiana History
Unit: Underground Railroad
Indiana routes to Canada

Name_____

The following map is one from Wilbur H. Siebert's book on the Underground Railroad. Here you see three main routes going north. All were used as well as unmarked routes when runaways simply followed the north star.

Find where you live. Trace your finger along the path nearest you. Would you have traveled that way as a slave?

Activity:

1. Label the routes:
   Eastern
   Central
   Western
2. Color the Eastern route yellow.
3. Color the Central route green.
4. Color the Western route red.
5. Choose the one that is nearest where you now live. Name the towns you would have passed through going north. Write the towns on the bottom of this paper.

from Underground Railroad, Wilbur H. Siebert [illegible] p. 131

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Name_____

Indiana History
Unit: Underground Railroad, Western Route

This map is hand-drawn and shows the approximate route or routes that a fugitive might have taken. Information is from local folklore.

KEY:

Rivers:

Possible route:

Towns:

Capital:

Activities:
1. Color red a route you might have taken.
2. Put an X where Peter Stephenson's house stood.
3. How many times would a river have to be crossed?_____
4. Color the Ohio River blue.
5. Color the West Fork of White River bluegreen and East green.
6. Color the Wabash River purple.
7. Color the St. Joseph River orange.

Indiana History Name_____
Unit: Underground Railroad
Transportation

The escaping slaves used every possible route going north, but the slave grapevine got word to them of the best ways with help along the way. Some traveled on foot swimming across creeks and rivers. Abolitionists helped hide some in the holds of river and canal boats. Friendly farmers gave them rides in wagons with false bottoms or under loads of hay. Huckster or peddler wagons sometimes had secret panels for hiding slaves. Abolitionists helped disguise slaves in various ways. A very light man might travel as a white woman with her colored servant.

Fugitives traveling without help had to rely on nature for food. They might find nuts, berries and fruit in season. Corn fields still green gave them corn to eat. They did not dare build fires to cook their food. Cattails and other edible roots were all they had at times. Some found friendly folk who would feed them and give them warmer clothing. All of them suffered hardships as they left their warm climate for the colder north.

Hiding places were found in all kinds of places. It might be under a haystack, up a tree, in a cave, in a marshy wooded area, in a barn, or a ravine. Always there was the fear of the master coming after them with dogs following their scent. Streams were welcome, for with water they could make the dogs lose their scent.

Activities:

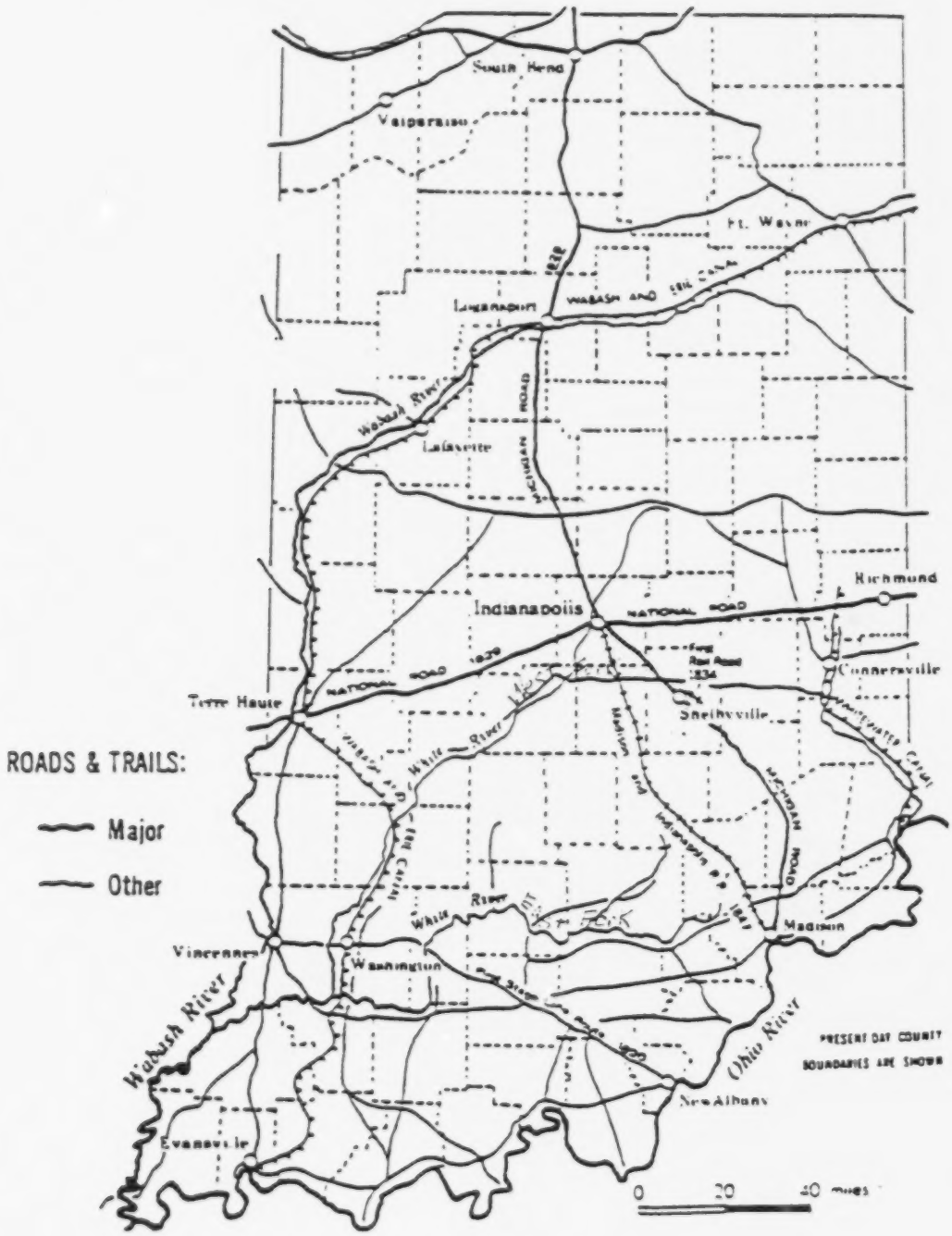
1. Name some means of travel you might of used as a fugitive.

1._____ 4._____

2._____ 5._____

3._____ 6._____

MAP 5.
Early Routes of Transportation



SOURCE: Robert C. Kingsbury, *An Atlas of Indiana* (Bloomington, 1970), 74

2. Using the map, name the rivers, roads, and canals that might have been used to get away from the Ohio River and on north.

   a. Rivers

      1._____ 3._____

      2._____ 4._____

   b. Roads

      1._____ 3._____

      2._____

   c. Canals

      1._____ 2._____

3. Name some hiding places a slave might have used. Be inventive and see if you can think of places in addition to places listed.

   1._____ 5._____

   2._____ 6._____

   3._____ 7._____

   4._____ 8._____

4. Name some possible foods a fugitive might have eaten while traveling north. Include anything they might have carried from home when they left.

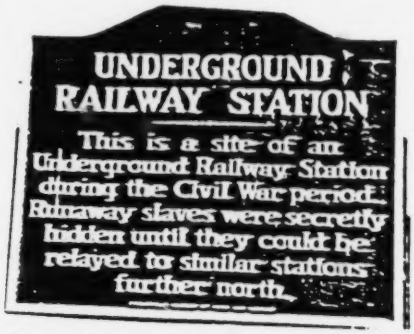
   1._____ 4._____

   2._____ 5._____

   3._____ 6._____

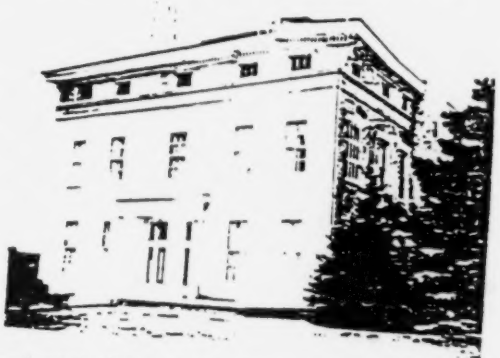
Indiana History
Unit: Underground Railroad
Western Stations on Ohio River

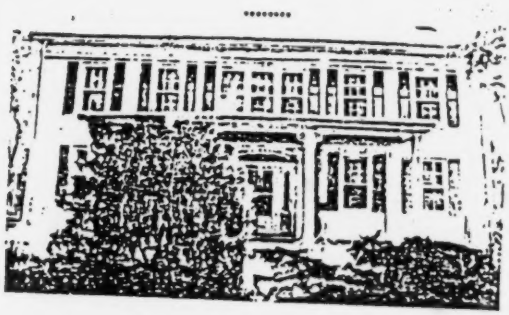
Name_____


UNDERGROUND
RAILWAY STATION
This is a site of an Underground Railway Station during the Civil War period. Runaway slaves were secretly hidden until they could be relayed to similar stations further north.

After crossing the Ohio River, fugitives did not see signs like the above. Everything was very secretive. It was important to get help immediately after crossing the Ohio for bounty hunters were constantly patroling the river.

Such a place in Evansville was the Carpenter House according to folklore. Mr. Carpenter was a wealty businessman and would not have been suspected.





Lowrey House built in 1837-38 and said to be a Station.

A slave might try to go around Evansville as it was so dangerous.

Mt. Vernon was nearer the Wabash and Erie Canal after it was finished in 1853. It covered 468 miles from Ft. Wayne to Evansville but was abandoned after 1874 when rail travel took over.

Warrick County was good because of Green River which flows from Tennessee to the Ohio River. It empties into the Ohio across from Newburg. Many came through as the Sheriff was known to overlook happenings along the river bank. Fugitives also crossed at Tell City and Rockport in Posey County.

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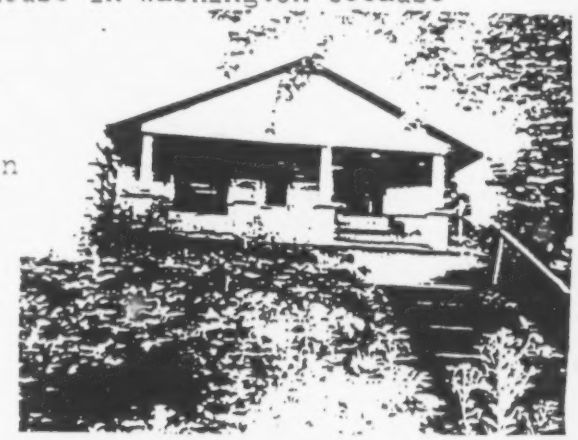
Princeton Stations :

Mrs. Loretta Freeman, a retired teacher of Princeton, gave information about her family. Her grandfather, Uriah Hardiman, told that his father was one of four boys boated across the Ohio with their mother. The owner gave them freedom papers in 1840, money, and a white guide to purchase land for them. They first lived in Grandview then moved to Princeton where Uriah married a Greer whose father was Willis, son of Levi Greer. Levi Greer was a white man from Alabama who was granted permission to leave with his eight slaves. They came to Princeton around 1850. The slaves were Ann Greer and her children, Henry, Allen, Willis, and Harriet Caroline, the baby. Harriet grew up and married Jonathon Lyles, son of Joshua, March 4, 1865. The Lyles became farmers who did well and established Lyles' Station, a black settlement.

Not all slaves were given their freedom. Andrew Carithers ran a station and is said to have taken his charges all the way from Princeton to Peter Stephenson's house in Washington because he didn't trust anyone else to do it. The house to the right is where his place was and is now know as the Walden Farm.



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Oakland City was a station that helped a lot of refugees. Col. William Cockrum of Oakland City wrote a book History of the Underground Railroad. In it he tells of many ventures of the days before and during the Civil War. His father helped the slaves and he, himself, delivered messages and helped until his enlistment in the Union Army. He obtained a diary belonging to J.T. Hanover, who went by John Hanson, in which is recorded code messages, routes named after trees, numbers identifying helpers, and other information. This was rarely written down because of the danger of it getting into the wrong hands. The diary told of friends of the slaves who worked as ferrymen, fishermen, teachers, map makers, peddlers, and other occupations in order to be in contact with the fugitives.

Activities:

Answer the following questions about the stories just read.

1. Why do you think many agents lived in very large houses like Mr. Carpenter's which was said to be the grandest of his time?

_____

_____

2. Why would Evansville have been a dangerous place for runaways?

_____

3. Why would Warrick County near Newburg be a good place for slaves to come? _____

_____

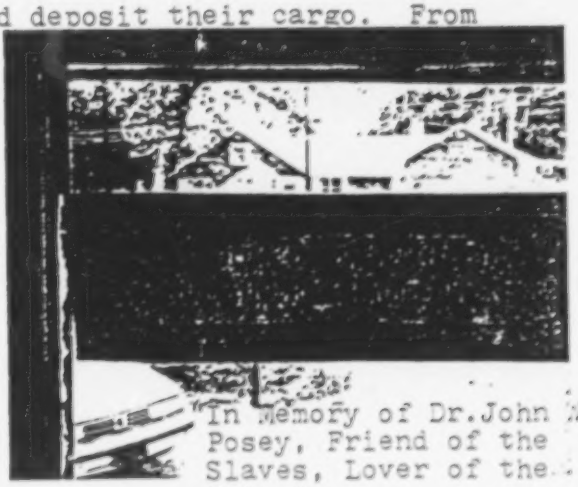
4. Tell why you think the Hardimans and Lyles, as well as the Greers, were more fortunate than some slaves?_____

_____

_____

Indiana History
Unit: Underground Railroad
Pike County

Pike County had a well known agent in Dr. John W. Posey. He was a medical doctor living near where the Power Plant is in modern times. Conductors would bring the slaves up to his big double log cabin, park in the breezeway, and deposit their cargo. From there they would simply disappear. Actually, they were hidden in a coalmine near by. They would take food and supplies out and lower them down in a bucket.



"In Memory of Dr. John W. Posey, Friend of the Slaves, Lover of the Union"

Mr. Allen T. Kine of Petersburg, born in 1901, is the great grandson of Dr. Posey. His mother, Effie Posey, was daughter of Richard Posey, son of Dr. John W. Posey. The top picture shows a glass plaque that was made in honor or Dr. Posey as a part of the Petersburg Methodist Church window. Mr. Kine had it in his possession now.

The picture on the left shows Mr. Kine in his home with a plate his grandfather brought back from New Orleans after taking a load of grain down on a flatboat.

Dr. John W. Posey is mentioned numerous times in Co. Cockrum's book on the Underground Railroad.

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Activities:

1. Draw what you think a double log cabin might have looked like.

2. Answer questions with T or F for true and false.

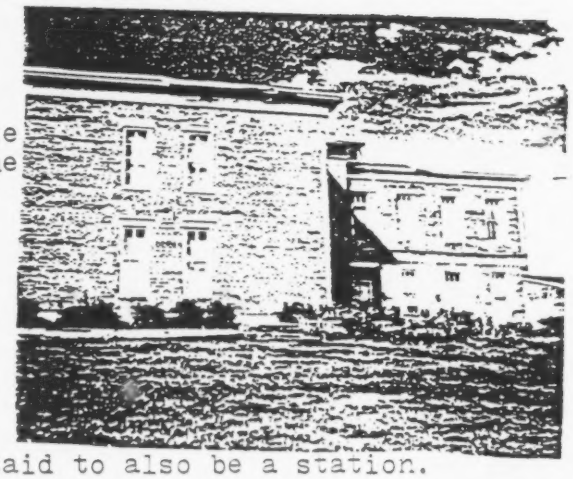
____a. Dr. Posey was a conductor who took slaves on to the next station.

____b. Being a doctor was good because Dr. Posey could also doctor the runaways.

____c. Mr. Kine was no relation to Dr. Posey.

____d. Fugitives would gather around Dr. Posey's table to eat.

____e. A church honored Dr. Posey with a stained glass panel.



Another house in Petersburg is said to also be a station. The owner did not acknowledge publicly that he had helped the slaves even after they were free. The house, pictured here, had a back part where colored servants lived and worked. Recent owners, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Eversoll (1972-1985), report that when they dug a foundation for a garage they found a tunnel leading to the wine cellar. It extended about 30' to a dry cistern. Tradition says the owner, a Mr. Goodlet Morgan, is said to have hated slaves yet he kept colored servants. He used them as a cover to help runaways. He made his fortune in construction. He made his own bricks of clay.

3. Why do you think Mr. Morgan did not talk about his part in the

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Underground Railroad after it was all over like others did? Explain.

_____

_____

_____

4. Tradition says that President Lincoln stayed at the Morgan House at least two times. The Morgans loved to entertain with big parties or balls. Describe the kind of family you think they might of been.

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. Name some differences in the way Dr. Posey and Mr. Morgan lived.

a._____ b._____

c._____ d._____

6. Which one would you have rather been? Explain.

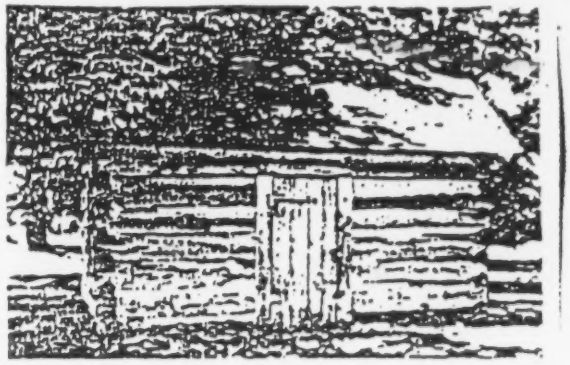
_____

_____

_____

Indiana History
Unit: Underground Railroad
Montgomery County

Terre Haute was considered fairly safe until after 1850. It had some stations but usually they were hurried on north. Montgomery county had several stations. One well known one was the picture here, the Speed cabin. It is said to have been a part of a larger building, but this was the part where the slaves were hidden.



Milligan Park. Speed cabin (1820)

Once living in Virginia, Mr. and Mrs. Speed were drafted at gunpoint to help stop a slave-uprising. Twenty-two slaves were caught and ordered shot down. This quickly decided the Speeds to become abolitionists.

For a time Mr. Speed did stone work on the National Road then they decided to move to Indiana, to Crawfordsville, and settle down. They built their house around 1820. He would go as far as Evansville after slaves to help them escape north.

The cabin was completely dismantled and stored then later erected in its present site. Herman McCloud points to a rifle that his uncle had made when he was young. This was the topic in an issue of the Montgomery County March, 1976, Magazine.

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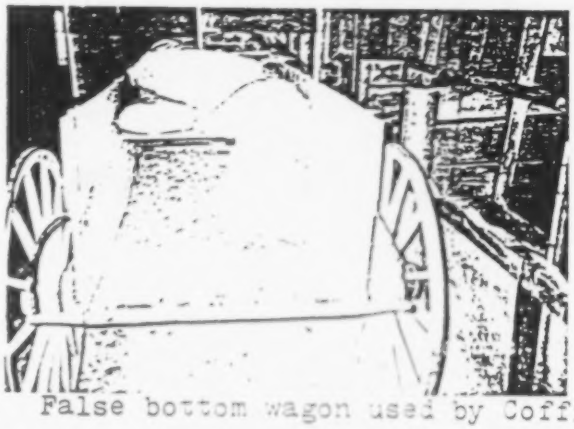
Indiana History
Unit: Underground Railroad
Levi Coffin

Levi Coffin, a Quaker, was named President of the Underground Railroad by a slave owner from the South. Slaves would cross the Ohio River, be traced to the Coffin place then just disappear. Reportedly, over 3000 slaves were helped to freedom by the Coffins.

Levi Coffin and his desk.

Levi Coffin's first recollection of slaves was seeing them driven together chained to each other. He determined to help them go free someday. He was only 7 at the time.

In 1823, Levi left North Carolina and went to Terre Haute to stay with his brother-in-law. He taught at Honey Creek School while there. In 1826 he left North Carolina after marrying Catherine (Katie) White in 1824, and set up a retail store in Fountain City, Indiana. He used his store and his specially built house to help fugitives go on to freedom.



False bottom wagon used by Coffin.

Activity:

Look up Levi Coffin in the Encyclopedia and see what other things you can find. Write a report to read to others.

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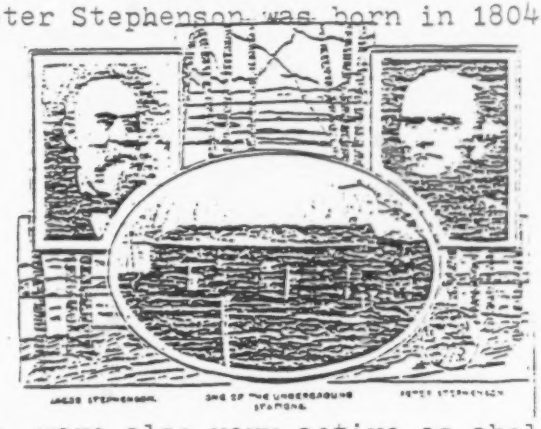
Indiana History
Unit: Underground Railroad
Daviess County

Name_____

Peter Stephenson is said to be the leading abolitionists in Daviess County. He decided to become actively involved around 1839. A black man was arrested in Prairie Creek bottoms north of Washington. He was found wearing an iron collar with upright prongs that extended nearly a foot above his head.

When Peter Stephenson saw him, he could not just stand by and not help the poor desperate man. He got him released when no one could actually prove that he was a runaway slave. After taking him out of jail, Peter took him to a blacksmith and got the collar filed off. He sent the man on to his freedom.

Peter Stephenson was born in 1804 in New Jersey of German parents. They lived in Cincinnati, Ohio from 1810 to 1839. He met Jane Crabb of Daviess County in 1825 when on a visit there. Their two sons, Jacob and Stephen, were also very active as abolitionists. The above picture was taken from an 1870's Indianapolis newspaper. It told of many of the escapes that the Stephensons helped make possible.



Debates were quite popular at community gatherings in the 1800's. Peter Stephenson was a bold man and often participated in a debate with question "Is Slavery right According to the Bible?" He almost always won. He always argued for the freedom of the slaves.

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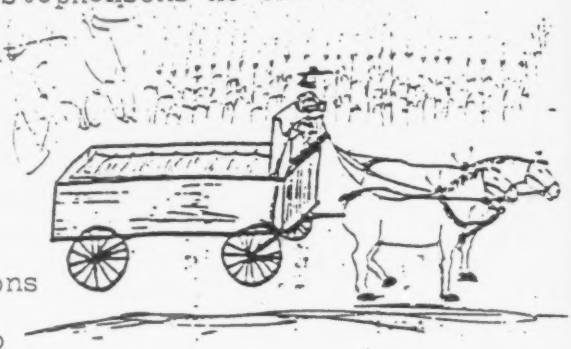
In one debate held at the Scudder School, Peter argued for the slaves and won. The school was packed to hear the debate but among the crowd were several proslavery people, or people for having slaves. They stirred up the crowd and they were ready to "Tar and Feather" him when was able to sneak out and get away.

How many slaves were aided by the Stephensons no one knows. One story told is about one stormy night when the huckster wagon pulled in with some slaves. William Brown was the owner and driver and he brought them from the Ohio River to different stations along the way. Shortly after the cargo arrived, word came that they wer being pursued. It was too stormy to try to get them to Terre Haute. The Stephensons loaded them onto a wagon then covered them with gunny sacks as if delivering a load of grain to be ground at Maysville Grist Mill.



As daylight came, Jacob, who was driving the team, acted as though nothing was wrong. He saw people look at him with a question but he smiled and went on. He was able to deliver them to a Mr. Thompson's, who because of his standing in the community, was not even under suspicion. They search the Stephenson place but of course found no one.

Another story is about a woman named Lizzie who was owned by a man in Kentucky. Her husband was owned by a neighboring plantation. Lizzie learned that she and her child were to be sold. She was able to get word to her husband who stole a horse that very night and

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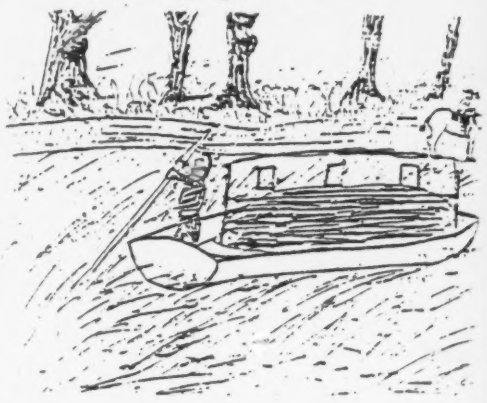
came after them. They raced for the Ohio River arriving just before dawn. There was no one to ferry them across. Lizzie's husband, knowing it would soon be light, jumped down off the horse. He plunged into the Ohio holding the horse's reins and they both swam across. Lizzie and her child held on for dear life.

William Brown's huckster wagon was parked nearby. They hired him to take Lizzie and child to Stephenson's. When they got there, they found that Lizzie's master was after them. Jacob hurried them off to Stephen's house when he hid them in comfort boxes. That very evening he took them to the Wabash and Erie Canal and got them hidden in the hold of a canalboat.



Some later Lizzie's husband was able to get away and go to Canada, too. It was then learned that he did not have the money to pay Brown on the first trip. Everyone thought William Brown was an abolitionists. At one time,when he got caught, Daviess County raised money to get him free and bought supplies for his wife and children who lived in Princeton. It was later found out that he charge every adult $100 to take them north. As most slaves had almost no money, this was a huge amount.

Activities:

1. Who was Lizzie?_____

2. Why did her husband swim the Ohio instead of riding the horse?

_____

3. How do you suppose Lizzie got word to the Stephensons that she and her family were safe?

_____

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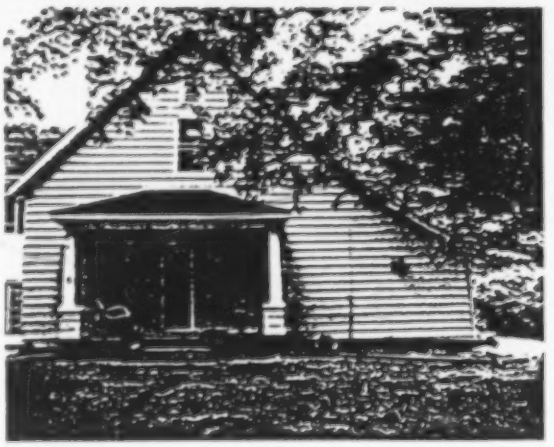
Another story familiar around Daviess County is about a young mother carrying a baby coming on foot to the Stephenson house. The "wolves" were close in pursuit. Not having time to do otherwise, the Stephensons quickly lowered them down a dry cistern outside their home. When the "wolves" arrived shortly afterward, the Stephensons were busy about their everyday tasks. Mr. Stephenson later stood right at the cistern, a dug hole to let rain water drain off the house and hold. The men were standing right on the covering of the cistern.

Mr. Stephenson told in later years that he "prayed fervently that the baby would not cry" and his prayers were answered.



Questions:

1. The house on the right is the Stephenson house remodeled. Name places they might have hidden slaves.
   a. _____
   b. _____
   c. _____
2. Compare the little insert of the Stephenson house and the pictures here. List some differences.
   a. _____ b. _____
   c. _____ d. _____
3. Mr. Stephenson was a cooper. Look up <u>cooper</u> and write the definition.
   _____

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Indiana History
Unit: Underground Railroad
Newspaper Articles

Name_____

Activities:

1. Read the following newspaper articles on page 2 and 3.

2. Answer the following questions.

    1. Who do you read about on page 1 that was mentioned in the stories?

_____

    2. What paper was the article taken from? What was the date of printing?

_____

    3. Why do you think the officers arrested the huckster wagon driver?

_____

_____

_____

    4. Why was the man not able to get a lawyer to defend him?

_____

_____

    5. Why did the Daviess County people raise money for bail and send food and supplies to his family at Princeton while he was in jail?

_____

_____

    6. On Page 2 choose one article and tell it in your own words--tell what it is all about.

+_____

_____

_____

_____

A Kidnapper Caught.

One of those "Underground Railroad" conductors, a citizen of Henderson, Ky., passed through our city night before last, on his return from delivering, per contract, four female slaves at the Canada depot in Petersburgh, Ind. Information had been lodged with Marshal Ward, that this man, Brown, who was well known here as a notion pedlar, was suspected, and he directed the ferry to be watched as he, (Brown,) was expected to return about that time. About 6 o'clock in the evening, Mr. Brown, came to the ferry, with a two-horse close carriage, well adapted to his business, either negro-stealing or notion peddling. Marshal Ward and Sheriff Gavitt were immediately informed, but did not arrive at the ferry until Brown had nearly reached the Kentucky shore.—They put out in a skiff and reached the opposite shore, about a mile and a half behind.—After some momentary delay in procuring a pair of horses, which Dr. Ross kindly furnished them, the officers started in hot pursuit, confident, of course, of an easy victory. In this, however, they were somewhat disappointed. Upon coming up with Mr. Brown and making their business known to him, he drew a revolver in each hand and defied the officers to take him, and warned them of the consequences of making further advances.

The Sheriff and Marshal, in making their hasty pursuit, went unarmed, and were without civil process, except such as is recognized by public opinion in Kentucky, which gives license to nab a kidnapper when you can, and look up the law afterwards.

After parleying a few moments, Marshal Ward went to a neighboring house, and procured the necessary weapons to make the contest more equal, while the Sheriff followed Mr. Brown. After properly arming themselves the Marshal and Sheriff made another charge on the "worthy conductor," and he surrendered. They took their prisoner without further trouble to Henderson, where a writ for his apprehension was already in waiting, upon which he was taken before the Recorder, examined and remanded to jail.—Although a resident of Henderson, and in good standing and circumstances, aside from this charge, he could get no lawyer to defend him.

It appeared that he had received two hundred dollars for this last trip to the depot, from a free negro in that vicinity. The evidence of his agency in the affair is said to be very conclusive, and he will no doubt be dealt with severely. He is well known here as a notorious abolitionist, and if guilty of the thieving philanthropy with which he is charged, deserves punishment. After the proceedings before the Recorder, a writ was issued for his removal to Union county, where the slaves were taken from. We believe Mr. Brown received the slaves in Indiana; whether that will extenuate his case or not remains to be seen. Our officers exhibited their characteristic energy in securing their customer, and confess that they have learned something by the operation.

Evansville Journal June 2, 185

☞ The underground Railroad of which the vicinity of Petersburgh is said to be the Southern terminus, affords the most expeditious facilities for running Slaves into Canada of any route we have heard of. Only three days and nights from Henderson to Canada. The overland routes can scarcely beat that time.

Marshal Ward and Sheriff Gavitt are bestowing all the attention in their power to the officers and passengers by the underground route, especially on the back track. Any kidnapper or notion pedlar wanting, their services will be sure to be "done *Brown*."

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Fugitive Slave Recovered.—A short time since we noticed the fact that Mr. C. M. Williams, of Boonville, had captured a runaway slave, and that the boy had been released through the efforts of abolitionists. These abolitionists, after obtaining the release of the negro by habeas corpus, kept him in the neighborhood, got him clothes, and every night took him victuals in a cornfield, calling him up by a whistle. Mr. Williams was determined to secure the fellow, and keeping a close watch for several nights, at last in company and by the aid of Mr. Wm. Bonner, discovered the whistling part of the operation. They then went to the field before the abolitionists, whistled the negro up, and grabbed him. He was forthwith taken to Owensboro', Ky., and there deposited in jail to await the call of his master, Mr. John Johnson, of Eastport, Miss.—He confessed himself Mr. Johnson's slave, and was recognized at Owensboro'.

Stampede of Slaves.—During Tuesday night twenty-three negroes owned in Grant and adjoining counties, left their master's roofs, escaped to the Licking river where they lashed together several canoes, and in disguise they rowed down the Licking river to the Ohio and crossed, where they disembarked and made a circuitous route to the northern part of Cincinnati. Early Wednesday morning they were run off on the route of Canada by the underground railroad.

June 19, 1854
Evansville Courier Journal

☞ The editor of the New Albany Ledger has been picking at a typographical error in the Journal. If we were to attempt to pick at a *natural* error of his, we should punch him on the *head*.

Bank of Tennessee Notes.—The *five dollar* red-back new notes of the Bank of Tennessee will be issued and protected by the Bank—together with those of all other denominations except the *ten dollar red-backs*.

☞ A New York Wall street broker has recently purchased some $1,700,000 of Illinois rejected land claims, which the Legislature has time and time again refused to recognize.

June 19, 1854

☞ Nine fugitive slaves were arrested last Wednesday evening, just back of Cincinnati, on their way to Canada. They were on foot, ragged and hungry looking. They belonged to Wm. Walton, of Boone county, Ky.

☞ Three fellows, named Waggoner, are now in prison in Wooster, Ohio, awaiting trial for poisoning twelve good horses, owned by a Mr. Totten, who had given the villains a slight offence. The property thus destroyed was worth over $1,000.

☞ The City Council of New Albany have appropriated two hundred dollars to assist in paying the expenses of the celebration of the opening of the New Albany railroad to Lake Michigan, which takes place on the Fourth of July.

For the Evansville Journal.

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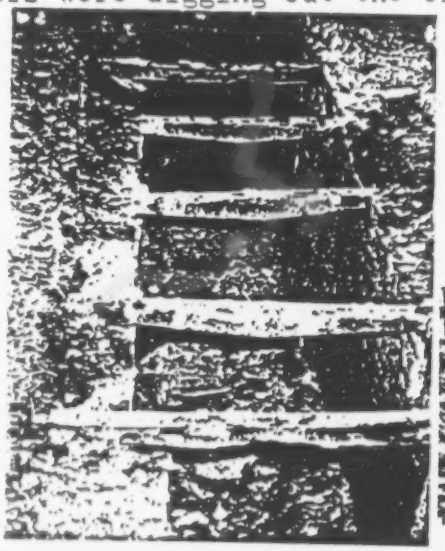
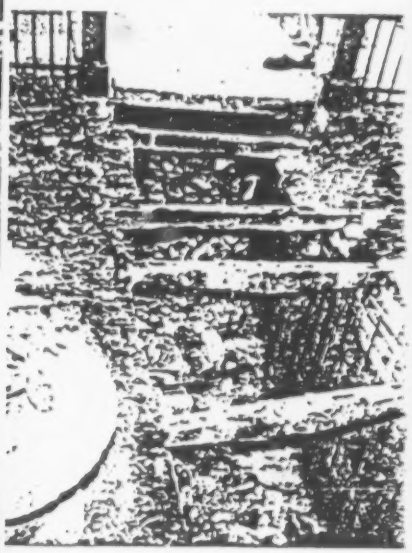
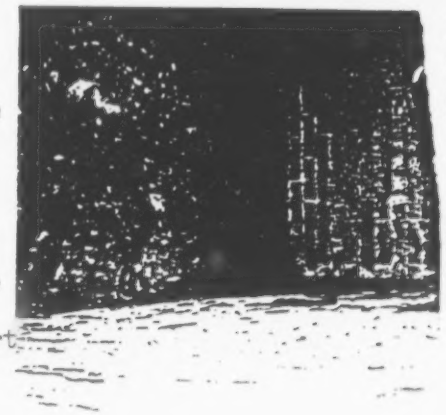
Indiana History
Unit: Underground Railroad
Mystery tunnel

Name_____

The pictures on this page are of a tunnel discovered in July 1990 in Washington, Indiana. It was discovered when the owner decided to replace a worn part of the sidewalk leading to her side door. As the workers were digging out the old concrete, they were quite surprised to find an empty tunnel underneath.







The tunnel led to the wall of the house. On closer examination it was discovered a new wall had been put up.

The tunnel is around 5½ feet deep and goes from house to the street where it has been walled up.

The house is quite old and was made of handmade bricks before 1886. The records were destroyed when the Court House burned in the 1800's.

Activity:

Write a story about the tunnel.

Tell what you think the tunnel might have been used for.
Could it have been an Underground Railroad?
Was it a secret passageway to the basement of the house?
What kind of people might have used it?

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Indiana History
Unit: Underground Railroad
Game 1, "Run for Freedom"

Objective of game:

Find the Western Route of the Underground Railroad by getting the pieces of the map in correct order from towns on the Ohio River to Canada.

Learning involvement:

1. Learn Western Route towns probably used by fugitives who were traveling the Underground Railroad.
2. Learn location of town along the western side of Indiana
3. Learn hardships slaves suffered by pictures on cards and the difficulty of getting a complete map.

Note to teacher:

1. Buy postcard weight 8½ x 11 size. I got mine from the local printing company.
2. Twenty (20) sheets of cardboard are needed for Game 1.
   a. Sheet 1--print 2 copies
   b. Sheet 2--print 8 copies
   c. Sheet 3--print 8 copies

   Total--20 sheets of postcard weight paper.
3. Cardboards may be sprayed with Clear acrylic spray coating for protection.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Two to four players seems to work out the best.

RULES OF GAME 1, RUN FOR FREEDOM, Map game 162 cards in deck.

1. Choose dealer. Draw one card from Bank pile. One with highest score on card shuffles and deals the cards. In case of a tie, choose second card. Deal every player 5 cards total. Bank others.

2. Begin play with person on right of dealer.

   a. First player scans cards in hand to see if he has Mt. Vernon or Evansville as starter cards. If so, he puts one down to his right to begin his map. He replaces it from Bank Pile.

   b. If player does not have a starter, he chooses one card to discard, then he draws a new one from Bank Pile, always keeping 5 cards.

   c. Two piles of cards will stay in center of table--Discard Pile, face up, and Bank Pile, face down.

   d. If a player has a RUN FOR FREEDOM card with the fugitive on both sides, he can substitute it for any part of the map, like a "Wild" card.

   e. Players need to keep pieces of map in order in hand so to play as many as possible at once. If more than one piece is played, these are always replaced with ones from the Bank to keep 5 cards in hand.

   f. After player has drawn from Bank Pile, he does not play any more until his next turn. Always keep 5 cards in hand.

   g. If players are forced to stop before game ends with someone completing the map, the highest score added up in hand, plus the number of map cards down, wins.

   h. Pieces of the map must always start with Mt. Vernon or Evansville and go on in the following order:

1. Mt. Vernon or Evansville	7. Terre Haute
2. Princeton	8. Crawfordsville
3. Oakland City	9. Lafayette
4. Petersburg	10. Rensselaer
5. Washington	11. South Bend
6. Vincennes	12. Michigan

13. CANADA AND FREEDOM!

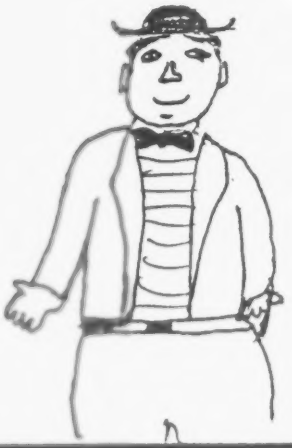
Sheet number 1

Game 1 Print 2 copies

Run for Freedom

+20

Good Lawyer



+20

-20

Bad Lawyer

-20

+10 Food

+10

O Bystander

O

O Bystander

O

O Bystander

O

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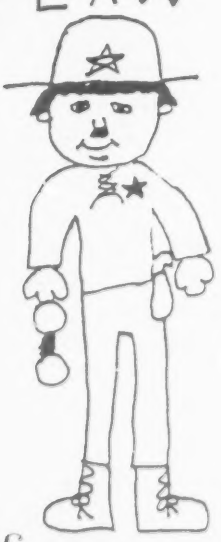
-25 LAW



-25

O Hunter

O

+10

Free Black Home

+10

+15

Station

Evansville

+15

Use postcard weight card...

+15

Station

Mt. Vernon

+15

+15

Station

Princeton

+15

+15

Station

Oakland City

+15

Run for Freedom Game 1 - Print 8 copies
Sheet Number 2

+15

Station

Petersburg

+15

+15

Station

Washington

+15

+15

Station

Vincennes

+15

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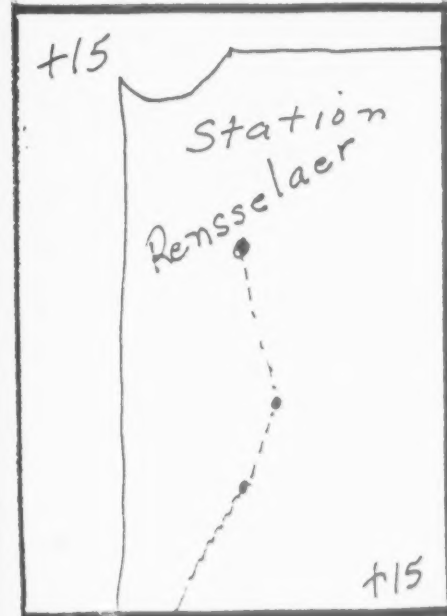
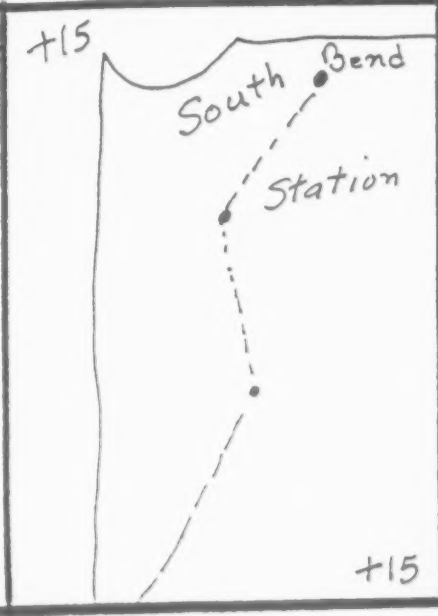
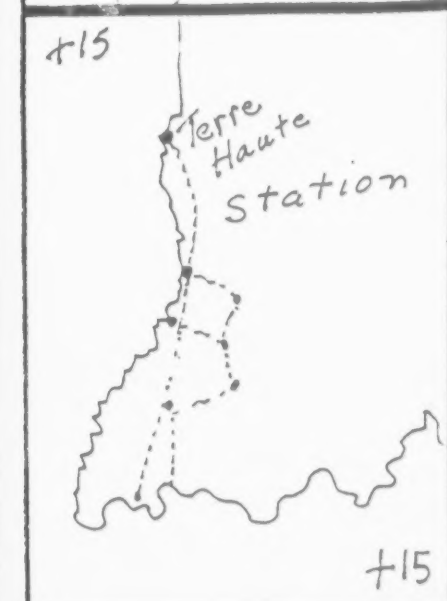
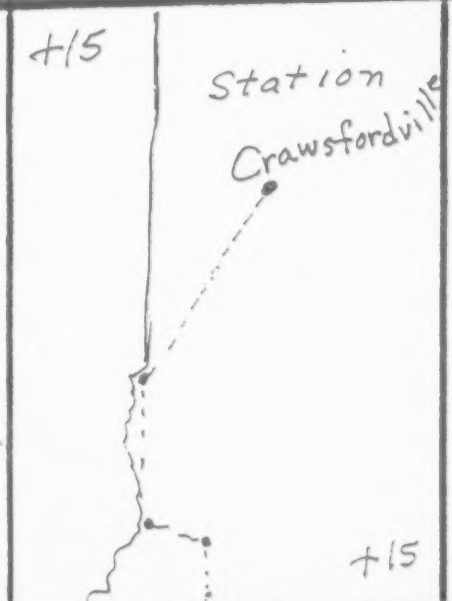
Sheet Number 3

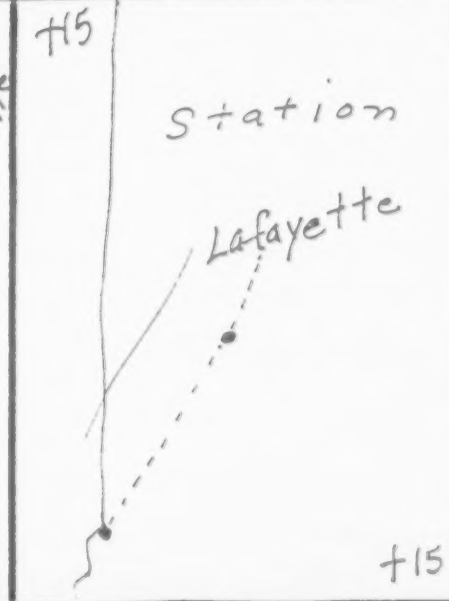




Print 8 copies







Run for freedom Game 1

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Indiana History
Unit: Underground Railroad
Game 2, "Underground Railroad"

Objective of game:

Pretend you are a runaway slave. As you play the cards, you are looking for ways to get north. You are faced with dangers and hardships but also with kind people along the way. You want to get to Canada and freedom! See who can get highest score!

Learning involvement:

1. Awareness of people and kinds of places faced when fleeing on the Underground Railroad.
2. Deductive thinking as player decides what card to discard in order to keep highest score.
3. Addition and subtraction practice as player manipulates cards in game.

Note to teacher:

1. Buy postcard weight cardboard 8½ x 11. (Can be purchased at a printing shop.
2. Buy 16 sheets to print game. Choose a different color than game 1.
3. Print 4 copies of each sheet in Game 2.
Print the runaway slave on back.

NUMBERS OF PLAYERS

Two to six players can play at once.

RULES FOR GAME 2, UNDERGROUND RAILROAD 144 cards in deck

1. Choose dealer. Draw one card from Bank Pile. One with highest score on card shuffles and deals the cards. In case of a tie, choose second card. Deal every player five cards total. Bank all remaining cards.

2. Begin play with person on right of dealer.

   a. First player discards card of least or negative value in Discard Pile. He then draws one card from Bank Pile to replace it. After Bank card is drawn, the play is over.

   b. Each player continues discarding and drawing until all cards in the Bank Pile are used up. The person with the highest score wins. All negative cards must be subtracted.

   c. Game may be played with a timer to stop game.

   d. If teacher calls children back to group, the hightest score in hand wins.

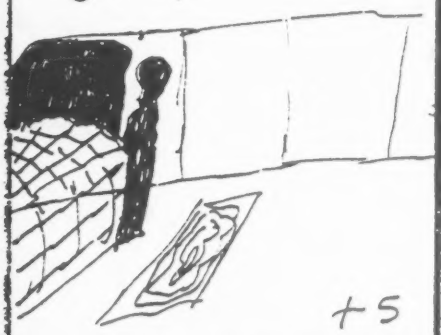
3. Each player hopes to get a Canada card with Freedom and a high score.

4. Two to six players can play at once. Uneven numbers do not matter.

+5

Secret Door to Attic

Stephenson's

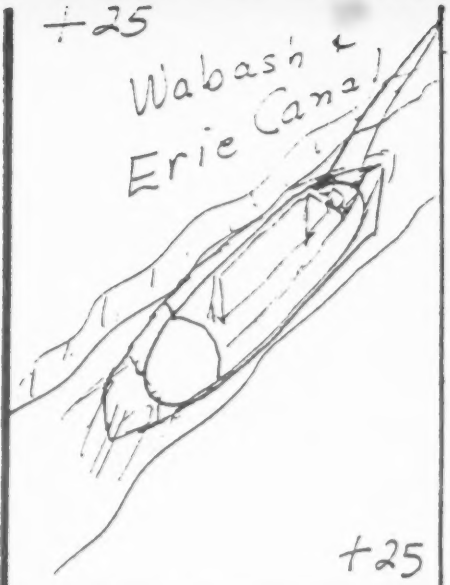


+5

+10

+10

+25



+25

Print 4 copies on Postcard weight cardboard

+10

Free Black Home

+10

+10

Warm Clothing

+10

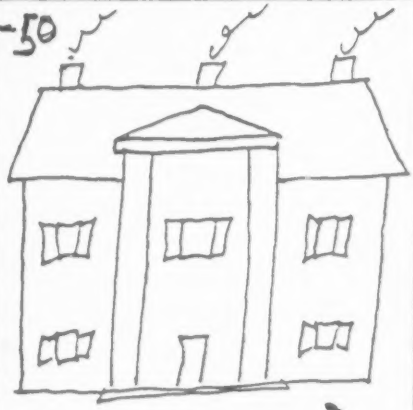
-50

Kentucky Slave owner

-50

Underground Railroad Game (No. 2) Sheet 1

-50



Tenn. Slave Owner

-50

-10 Kentucky Bounty Hunter

92

-10

-10 Tenn. Bounty Hunter

-10

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-25
INDIANA
OHIO RIVER
-25
KY

-10
Daviess County
White River
Pike Co.
-10

-5
Cold Weather
Light Clothing
-5

Print 4 copies.

+50
Abolitionist
Dr. John W. Posey
+50

-25
INDIANA
FROZEN
OHIO RIVER
KY -25

-5
Winter
No Food
-5

Sheet 2

-10
SNOW STORM
-10

+10
CAVE
+10

+10
Wagon with False bottom
+10

Underground Railroad Game (No. 2)

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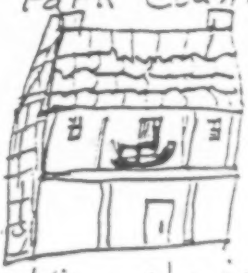
Quaker Community Bloomingdale Park County



Rocking chair on porch roof meant safe +15

Dr. Deming, MD. Lafayette Office

+15

Kidnapping of Sam in Washington 1824

-15

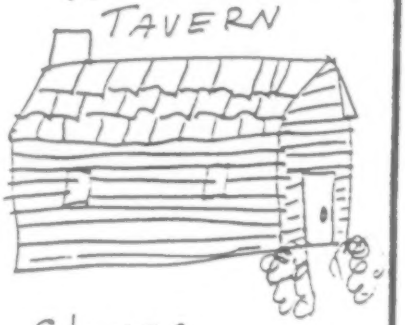
Print 4 copies

-15 1839

Black with iron collar -15

+10

10 Mile House TAVERN



Slaves could hide here.

+10

+5

Debate:

"Is Slavery Right According to the Bible?" or

Resolved: The Indian Has Been Mistreated More Than the Negro.'

P. Stephenson won on Slavery.

+5

Underground Railroad Game (No. 2) Sheet 3

-5 Woman and Baby

-15 Husband with wife and baby in Ohio River

-15

-10 Price $100 per person

-10

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Underground Railroad Game (No. 2) Sheet 4 Print 4 copies

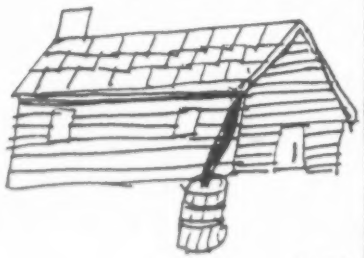
+25

John Speed's Log Cabin in Crawfordsville

+25

+25

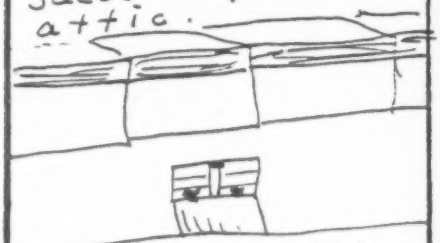
Peter Stephenson's Cooper Shop



+25

+25

Quilt boxes in Jacob Stephenson's attic.



Slaves were hidden here

+25

+25

Carpenter House in Evansville

+25

+25

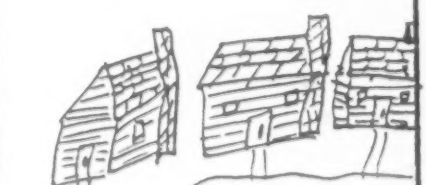
+25

Lowrey House Mt. Vernon

+25

+25

Lyles's Station



Freed Black Community in Princeton

+25

+10

Hardiman boys and mother boated across Ohio - given freedom

+10

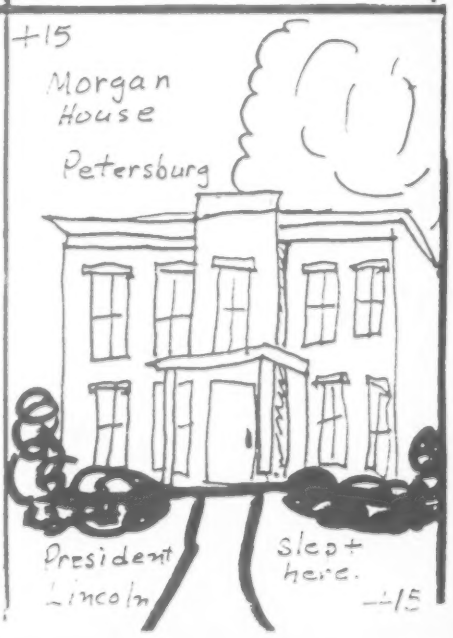
+15

Col. William Cockrum Union Soldier Oakland City

+15

+15

Morgan House Petersburg



President Lincoln slept here.

+15

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